

EPISODE #87
May 6, 1993

The Valley COMIC

N • E • W • S

TAKE A GIRL TO WORK DAY:



TAKE A BOY TO WORK DAY:



ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

IT JUST KILLS ME

HELL'S HALF-ACRE

EVENING AND MORNING THE 100TH DAY

BEYOND POLITIX

MISC. & MATCH

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,

DOONESBURY,

CALVIN & HOBBS,

VIEWS OF THE WORLD,

JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,

IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,

THIS MODERN WORLD,

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,

LOCAL HEROES,

BRASS & FERN

WILMINGTON,

EARTHWEEK

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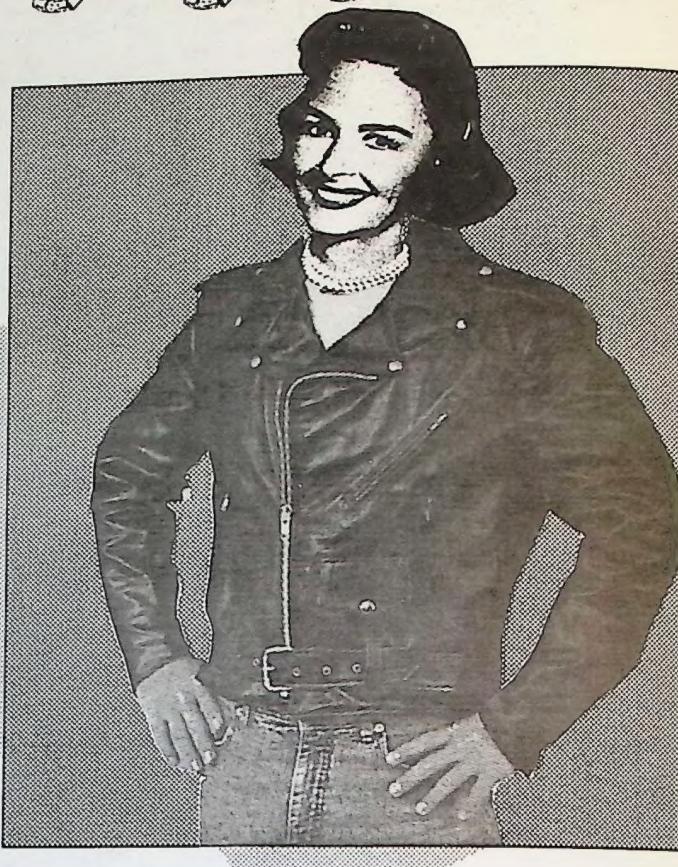
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

Everybody's got an idea what's wrong with this country. Either the government's letting in too many Albanians, or fluoridated water's making our kids flunk their SATs, or the cops should start using cardboard bullets, or the Fed ought to guarantee home mortgages to everybody who's been harassed by telemarketers. Here's what I say to all these theories: bohunk! What's wrong with this country is what happened to me recently. I know you'll agree.

What happened was somebody backed into me in a parking lot and broke the lens over my brake light. Fortunately (I thought) it was just the red part, and the white and amber sections were still intact.

I figured, OK, I lost a piece of taillight about 1/8"x3"x3". I'll just shlep over to Flywheel & McRotor's Auto Parts and pick up a new one. My cars hadn't had any taillight problems for a bunch of years, but I remembered replacing the red lens on a Volkswagen once for about \$4.95.

So I tried the parts store. No luck — in the first place, you can't just replace the red part like you used to; now you have to buy the amber and white parts too, because it's *all one piece*. Plus, you can't just buy the plastic; you also have to buy the metal molding and rubber gasket and the screws to attach it. And — only the dealer carries such a collection of unnecessary hardware. Other parts stores verified this amazing story. So I called the dealer.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, please note my eyes when I speak to you: they're direct, unblinking, truthful eyes. Note my hands: calm, apparently in control. But I want you to believe with every fiber of your being that within myself I am *consumed* with rage. Consumed, members of the jury and fellow drivers, because Nissan Motor Corp. wants *eighty-nine dollars and sixty cents to replace my taillight!!!! With tax, that's over ninety dollars!!!! For a TAILLIGHT!!!!!!* I once bought a fully-functioning truck for less than that!!!

Let me put this in a contemporary perspective: Professor Roger Porter of the University of Massachusetts' Polymer Science Department tells me that taillight material, or polycarbonate, costs slightly over *a dollar a pound* in bulk. What's a taillight weigh, including metal molding — maybe four ounces? And the good people at Kerf & Boardfoot's Lumber Yard inform me that a 1/8"x36"x72" (that's three by six feet) sheet of Plexiglas™ (polymethyl methacrylate) can be had for \$26.99. A little math (send \$5 and SASE for details) shows if you'd cut my 3"x3" scrap out of that Plexiglas, to make it cost as much as Nissan wants for a taillight, you'd have to mark it up (please remember these numbers): not ten, not one hundred, but *one thousand times*. One thousand!!!! Even allowing for adding red color and molding it to shape, it couldn't possibly cost more than a dollar to manufacture. A dollar!

Dear members of the jury, you have surely heard how Japanese in more honorable times would take their own lives if they committed a shameful act. I don't believe in capital punishment, and would not request this sentence. But I implore you to return a verdict against this company — the only verdict possible. I want you to affirm in the largest available public forum that the Nissan Motor Corp.'s charging \$89.60 for a one-dollar taillight is a despicable act of SHAME! That's SHAME, as in: a person or thing that brings dishonor, disgrace, and condemnation; as in: scandal, disrepute, discredit, ignominy, degradation, odium. As in: *Have you no shame???*

I am very glad they now allow cameras in the courtroom. I hope many people are watching this proceeding. I am personally sending a copy of this column, which reaches over 20,000 educated readers, to Nissan's president, whose address is listed below. And perhaps you will, too. I rest my case.

Thomas D. Mignanelli, President; Nissan Motor Corp. USA, Inc.; 18501 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

Publisher/Editor • Mike Chrisman Founder • David Hooks

Co-Publisher • Izzy Gesell Advertising Director/Co-Publisher • Silvana Gravini

Co-Publisher • Hank Ryan Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, Mass.

Copying • Paradise Copies Graphic Design • Mark Anderson

Concert Reviewer • Siena Chrisman © 1993 The Valley Comic News

Account Executive • Bill Connelly Thanx to Becca Gallant

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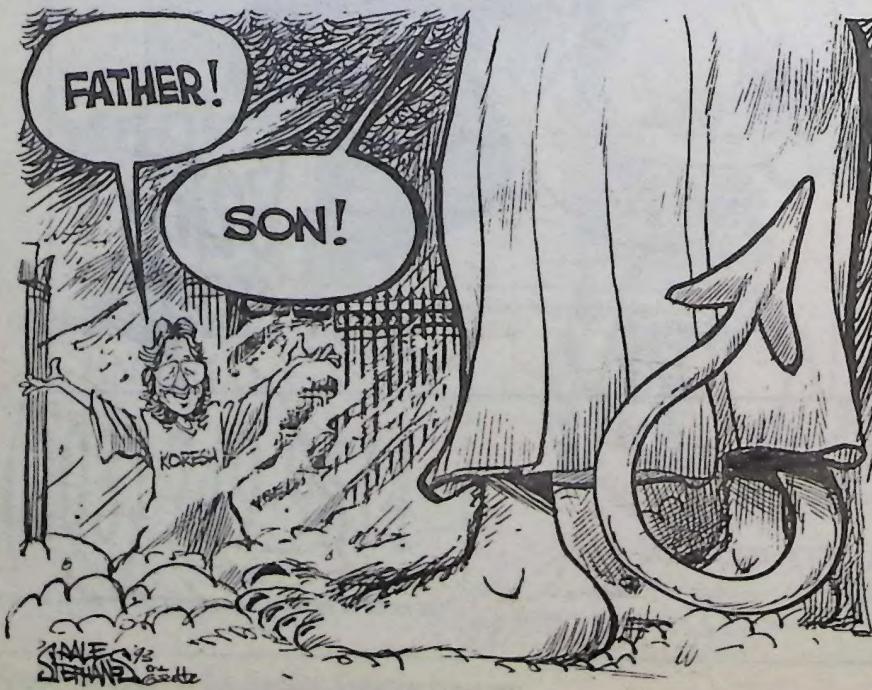
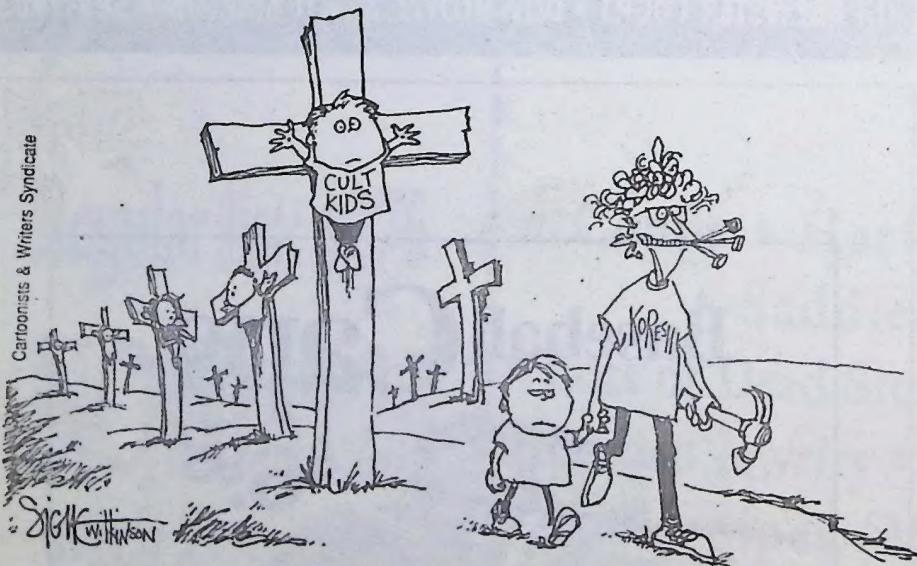
**Basic
Duds
at
Faces**

HELL'S HALF-ACRE

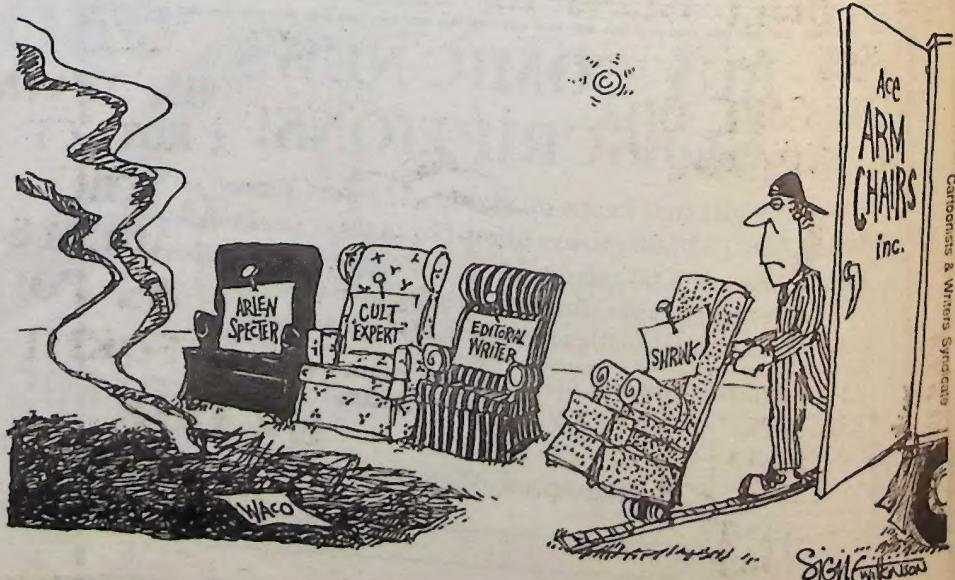
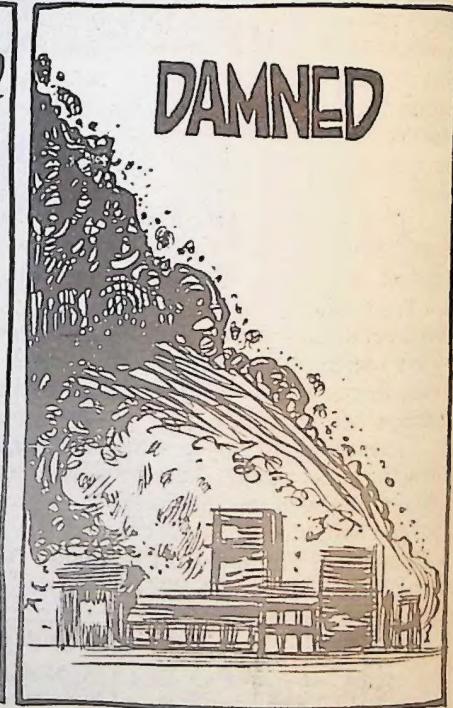
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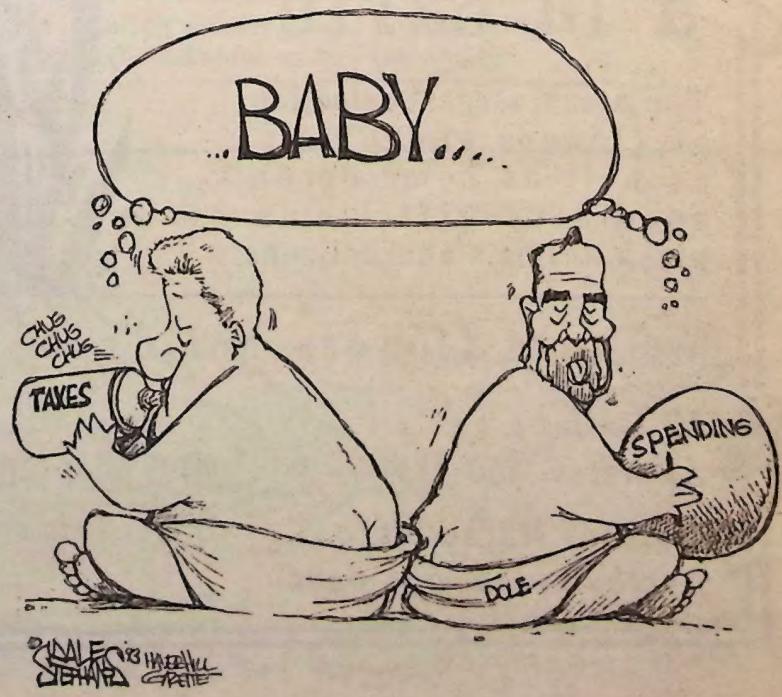
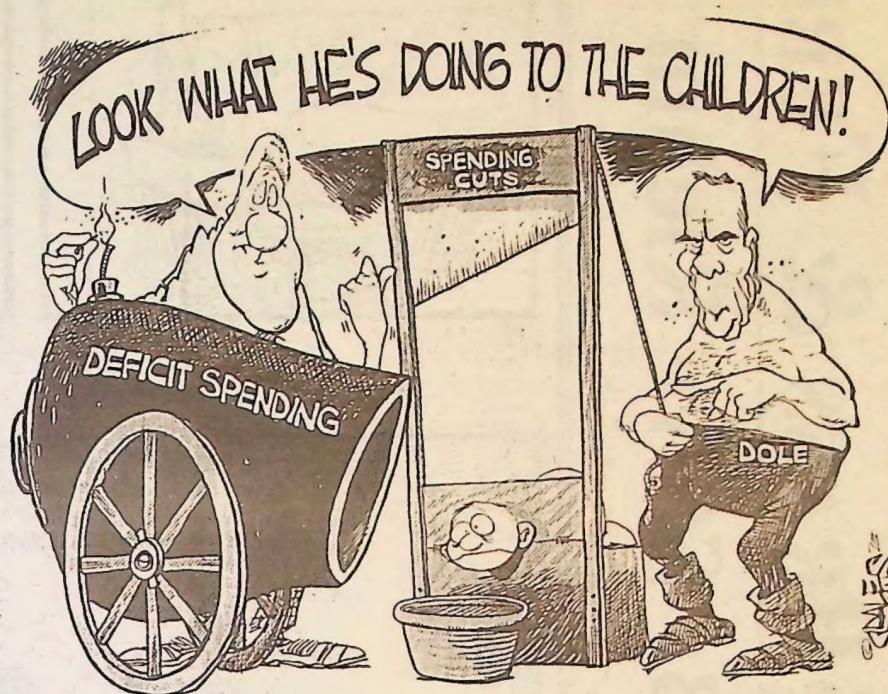
WHY ASK WHY?



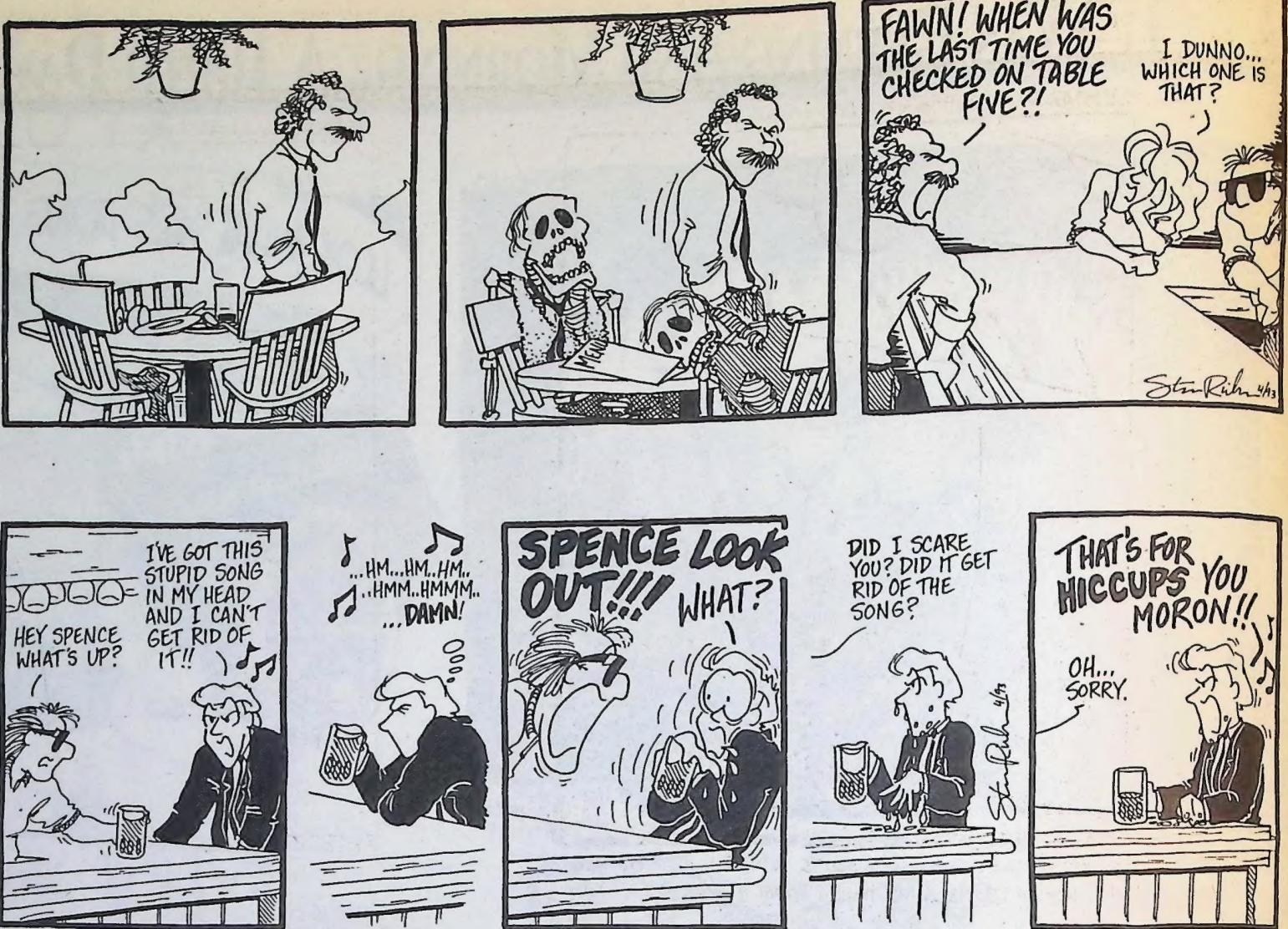
DAMNED IF THEY DID,
DAMNED IF THEY DIDN'T



AND IT WAS EVENING AND MORNING...A 100TH DAY



THE BRASS & FERN
By Steve Riehm



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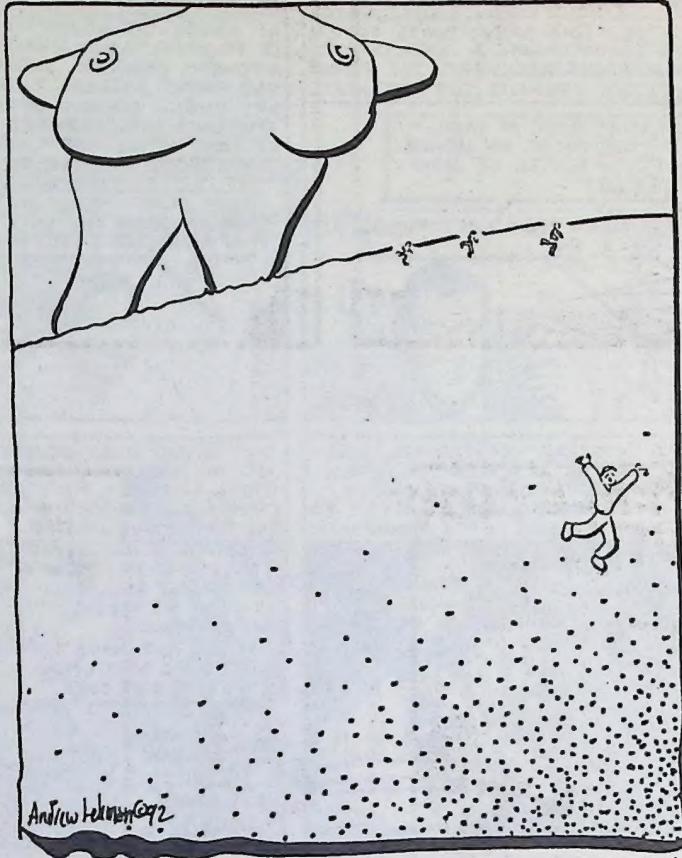
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LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman



SHOCKED AND DISMAYED FUNDAMENTALISTS RETREATED IN HORROR WHEN AT THE SECOND COMING IT WAS ASTERTE, THE EARTH GODDESS, THAT RETURNED

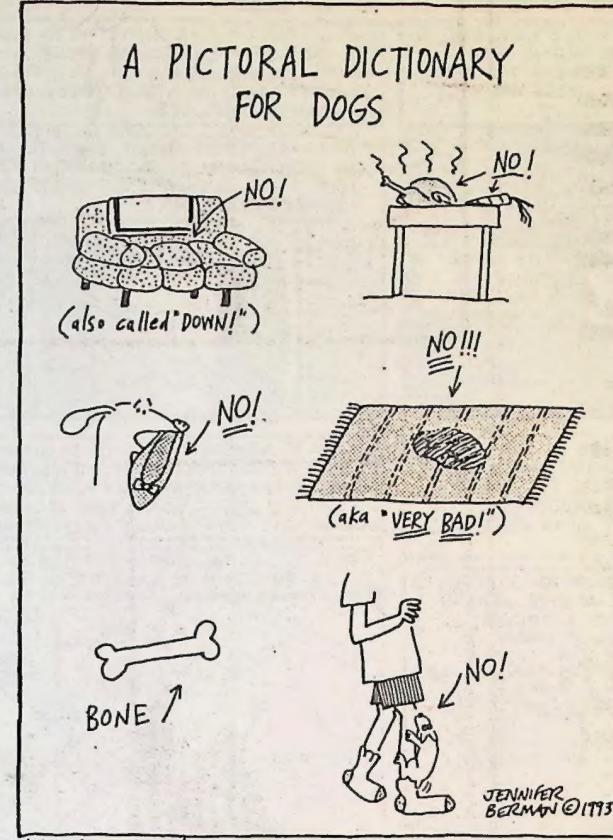
STIVERS

How to drive your wife crazy with lust.



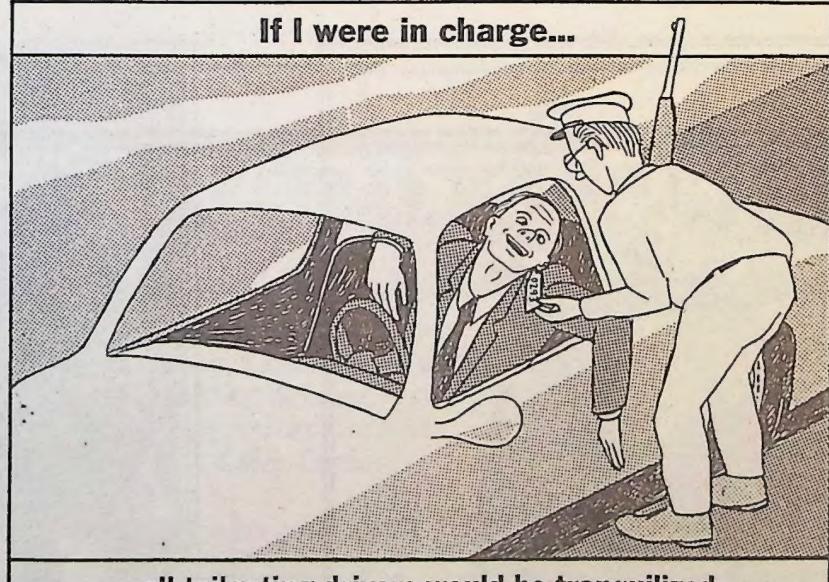
LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

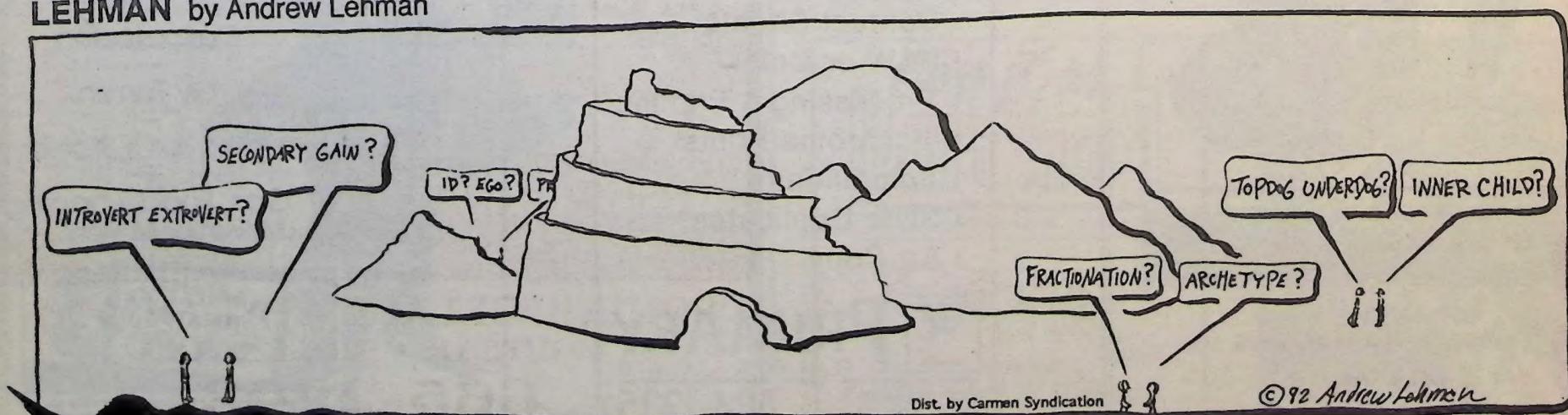


STIVERS

If I were in charge...



...all tailgating drivers would be tranquilized, tagged, and shipped to Philadelphia.



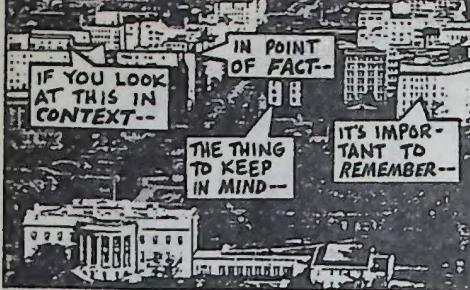
WITH THE TOWER OF PSYCHOBABBLE LYING IN RUINS, THERAPISTS WANDERED AIMLESSLY LISTENING FOR A COLLEAGUE WHO COULD SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.

THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

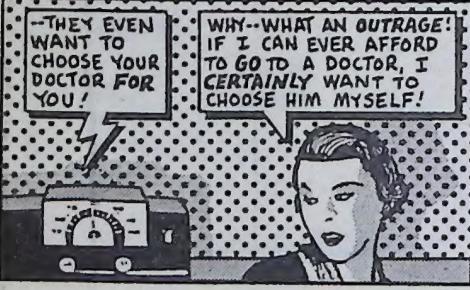
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 4-20-93

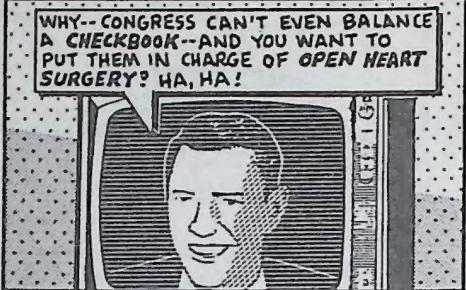
HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ON THE WAY...AND IN THINK TANKS ACROSS WASHINGTON, MEDICAL INDUSTRY LOBBYISTS ARE REHEARSING THEIR SOUND BITES FOR APPEARANCES ON MACNEIL-LEHRER AND NIGHTLINE...



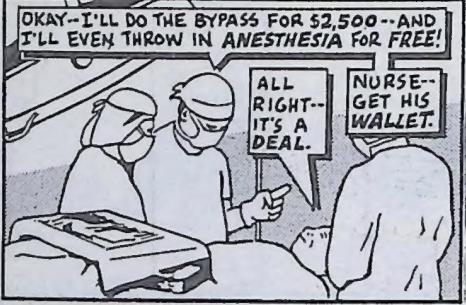
SO FAR, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PORTRAYING THE SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM--WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, BUT WOULD END THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AS WE KNOW IT--AS AN ASSAULT UPON CHERISHED AMERICAN FREEDOMS...



ONE OF THEIR TOP PRIORITIES IS TO DISCREDIT THE IDEA OF A CANADIAN-STYLE SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM... SINCE THIS IS DIFFICULT TO DO FACTUALLY, THEY MUST RELY ON DISPARAGING INNUENDO...



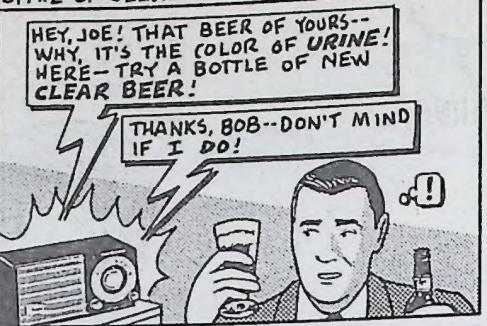
REFORM IS INEVITABLE, HOWEVER, SO LOBBYISTS ARE PUSHING A PLAN THEY FIND LESS OBJECTIONABLE: MANAGED COMPETITION, WHICH PROPOSES TO REDUCE HEALTH COSTS THROUGH GOOD OLD-FASHIONED DOG-EAT-DOG-FREE-MARKET COMPETITION...



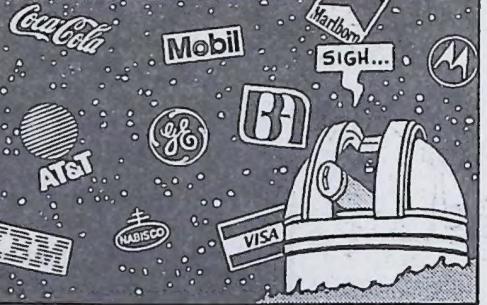
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 4-27-93

EVEN IN THESE MEDIA-SAVVY TIMES, ADVERTISING CAN EASILY CREATE A MARKET FOR ITEMS OF DUBIOUS NECESSITY... THE RECENT SPATE OF CLEAR PRODUCTS, FOR INSTANCE...



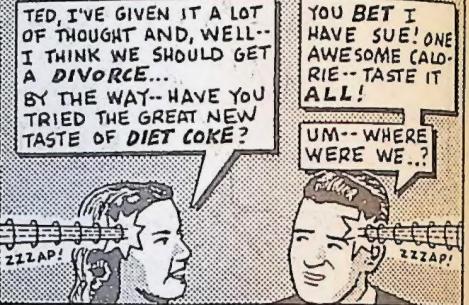
NASA, FACING BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, IS REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN A PLAN TO LAUNCH MILE-WIDE CORPORATE LOGOS INTO ORBIT, WHICH, FROM THE GROUND, WOULD APPEAR TO BE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE MOON...



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Photo: Jennifer Burdick

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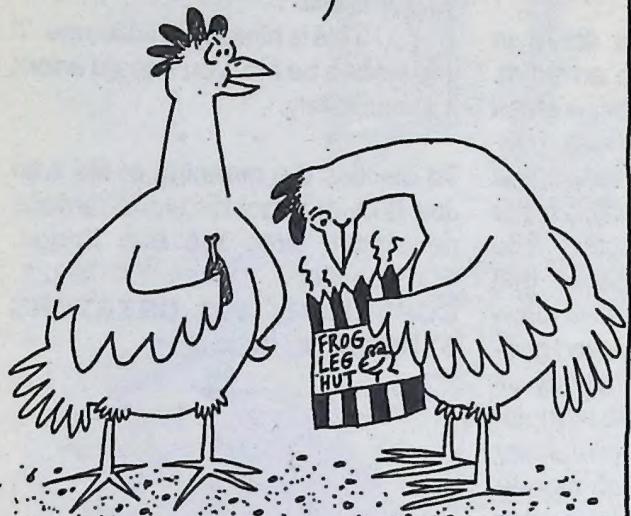
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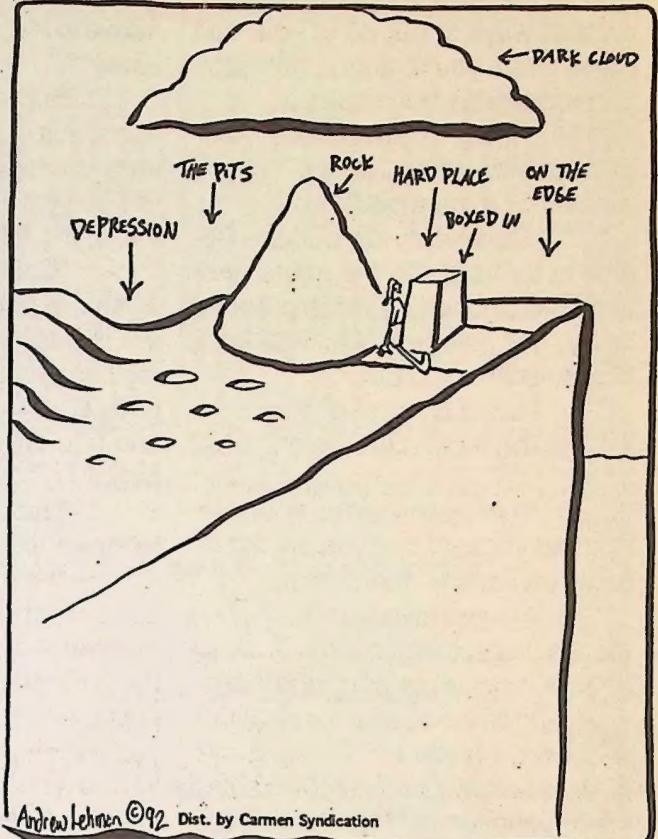
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

The New York Times just ran a list of ways to get rid of your bad mood when you're angry, with such recommended techniques as:

"Reward yourself; treat yourself to something, like a special present or a meal out."

"Resolve to do better. Decide to try harder in the future. For example, if one relationship ended badly, tell yourself you will work harder at the next one."

I won't go through the entire list, but the most amazing one of all is:

"Use downward comparison. Remind yourself that you are not as badly off as, say, the Somalis."

Are you following this? (Use the life of a starving person in Africa to give yourself an emotional lift!)

In fact, virtually every single suggestion made by the psychologists interviewed by the Times was some variation of "Distract yourself from thinking about it," "Ignore it," "Overwhelm it with something different," or simply that old stand-by, used for thousands of years, "Lie to yourself."

Why don't they just say, "Move to Honduras and change your name"?

But what's interesting to me about this is how there are *fashions* in psychology that change every few years. For example, what were we told in the fifties?

"Control your temper." Right? A mature person knew how to *control that temper*. Half the plays and movies written in the fifties are about people who finally go off the deep end from trying to control their tempers.

Then came the sixties. What were we told in the sixties?

"Vent your rage!: The opposite of what we were told in the fifties. In other words, it was *unhealthy* to try to control it. That made you go crazy. (We knew this from all the movies, like Michael Landon in "I Was a Teenage Werewolf." Every time he lost his temper, he turned into a wolf.) So the idea in the sixties was to go around yelling all the time. This made you an honest person.

Now we're into the seventies. What do you do about anger?

Talk about it. The best way to talk about it is in a group, like on "The Bob Newhart Show," and then other people tell you what they think of your anger, and then it gradually goes away. We should have known this wasn't going to work, because, after seven years of trying it, Mr. Carlen was *still angry*.

To deal with your anger in the eighties you became an artist. You wrote punk songs. You stuck safety pins through your cheek. (Oh, okay, I know — it started in the seventies, but it got *popular* in the eighties.) You slamedanced. You wrote performance art pieces that got banned by the National Endowment for the Arts. You sprayed graffiti on fences — until somebody offered you a deal to direct music videos. Then you started realizing you weren't getting enough money, and so you got angry all over again — at the evil record company that won't pay you money. But now there's no way to fix the anger, because you're *already an artist*.

I have an idea what the solution is gonna be in the nineties,

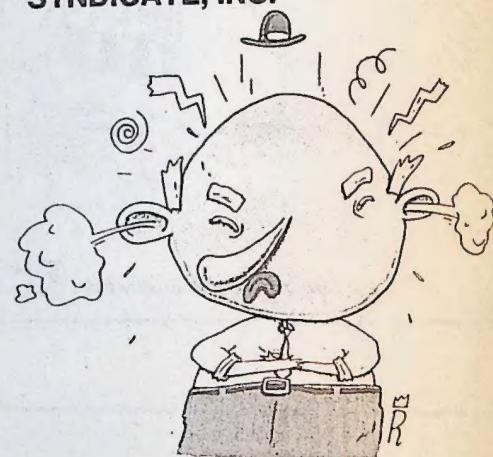
though:

I was cheated.
I was robbed.
I was discriminated against.
I went to a bad school.
My parents never loved me.
I have a disease.

In other words, it's *not my goldurn fault*.

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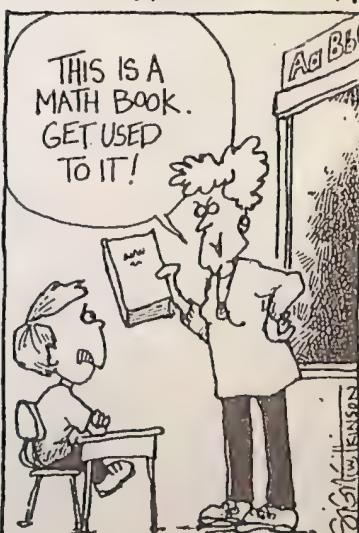
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CHICAGO SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS

EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA:

IF THE LEFT WING WROTE THEM

IF THE RIGHT WING WROTE THEM

IF MOST PARENTS WROTE THEM



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



MATT DAVIES

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You've got
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your car
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stuff,

You've got
your world
on a string...

Only one
thing you
haven't got:

The Valley
Comic News

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3 and Don't Leave The
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

In London, England, it's against the law to make love on a parked motorcycle.

The glacier ice worm is an unusual animal that disintegrates when the temperature rises above 68 degrees F.

One of my experienced correspondents writes, "An ideal mate is one who remains faithful to you but tries to be just as charming as one who doesn't."

Q. What's "honda" mean in English?
A. It's the eye in the end of a lariat, where the other end of the rope is passed through to form a loop.

If you've ever gone fishing, you know how much tackle you can lose to the bottom. The professionals lose it, too — about 136,000 tons of nets a year.

Every time there are Northern Lights there are also Southern Lights.

Playing cards are the most widely-used objects of diversion in the world.

We've known for some time that Native Americans introduced the colonists to popcorn. Some researchers point out, however, that popcorn was little-known to the general populace until 100 years ago when vendors first sold it at Chicago's Columbian Exposition.

Centuries ago people sprinkled sugar on their oysters — a culinary addition that one early writer described as "a sickening practice."

Q. How do peanut-eating elephants get the peanuts out of the shell?
A. They don't.

Approximately one in six U.S. homeowners has a home equity loan.

Joseph Conrad, who lived in an era when the social status of men and women was even less in balance, said, "Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men."

American families without children now outnumber those with.

Q. What did the earliest lamps look like?

A. Shallow limestone saucers, containing lumps of animal fat with moss for wicks. These have been found in southwest France and dated to the last Ice Age.

A law to impose national daylight savings time was passed in 1918, then repealed the next year. A farmer said, "My corn needs the morning sun." The law was passed again in 1942, by which time most people knew it wouldn't reset the rising sun. Not until 1986 was it made universal.

"Time has convinced me of one thing: Television is for appearing on — not for looking at." So said Noel Coward.

Penguins will walk right up to anything. They look fearless, but they're not. They're nearsighted.

New Zealanders didn't traditionally go out for dinner. Only in the last 25 years has New Zealand had even so much as one licensed restaurant.

It takes a blue whale three to five seconds to exhale a spout 30 feet high.

Q. How big is the world's biggest tree?
A. That's said to be a Montezuma Cypress in Tule, Mexico — 38 feet in diameter, 141 feet tall, and 150 feet across its crown.

Greenland gets snowfall every month.

During WWII Great Britain used canines they called "war dogs," which were trained to carry ammo, sniff out enemy positions, and lay wire under fire in combat. Most were about two feet high at the shoulder, and could carry at least half their weight.

Q. What are the odds against getting a Royal Flush in poker?
A. 649,739 to one.

Worldwide, fewer people move in cars than on bicycles.

There are more than 3,000 species of the arachnid we call the daddy long-legs.

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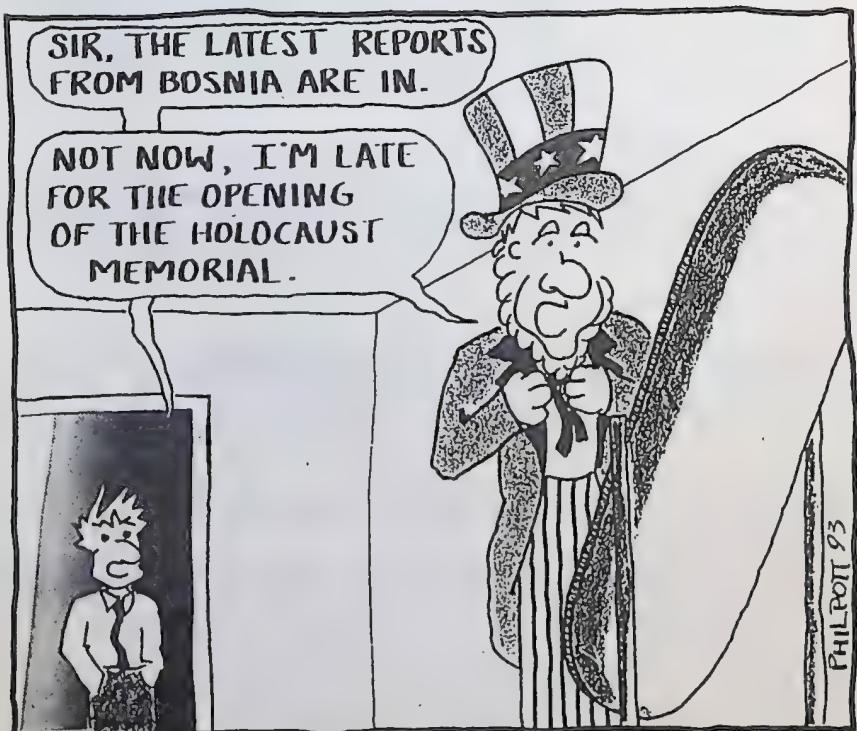
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THU
SIX

Iron Horse: The Bobs Vertex: Selectrocution Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — The Veronica Cartrights, Supremé Dicks, Tector Gorch Dave's Other Place: Mark Nomad City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Pearl Street: Chucklehead, Duck Duck Alley Oops: DJ Bobby C—all requests Charlemont Inn: open mic Green River Cafe: Barry & Holly Tashian Northampton Center for the Arts: Northampton Harmony (shape-note quartet)

FRI
SEVEN

Alley Oops: Hot Tub Piranhas Dave's Other Place: Greg Lent, Shelton Laster City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Huke Lau/Comedy Connection: Polynesian Show Hotel Northampton: Hal Benoit, Tom Savoy Pearl Street: Pop Black, Michael Gregory Iron Horse: The Bobs Baystate Hotel: Equalites Green River Cafe: Little Jimmy & The Bad Boys Vertex: Skunk Juice Northampton Center for the Arts: Northampton Harmony (shape-note quartet) Charlemont Inn: The Bobby Darling Show Shea Theater: The Odd Couple (Female Version)

SAT
EIGHT

Vertex: Selectrocution Baystate Hotel: Big Bad Bollocks (live video shoot) Green River Cafe: Salamander Crossing Hotel Northampton: Tom Savoy, Dave Brunelle Iron Horse: The Story Pearl Street: The Fools Huke Lau/ Comedy Connection: George Wallace Charlemont Inn: The Nightcrawlers Alley Oops: Boogaloos City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Dave's Other Place: Greg Abate

SUN
NINE

Iron Horse: Carter-Walton-Higgins Green River Cafe: Amy Hart (one-woman show) Vertex: Obituary

MON
TEN

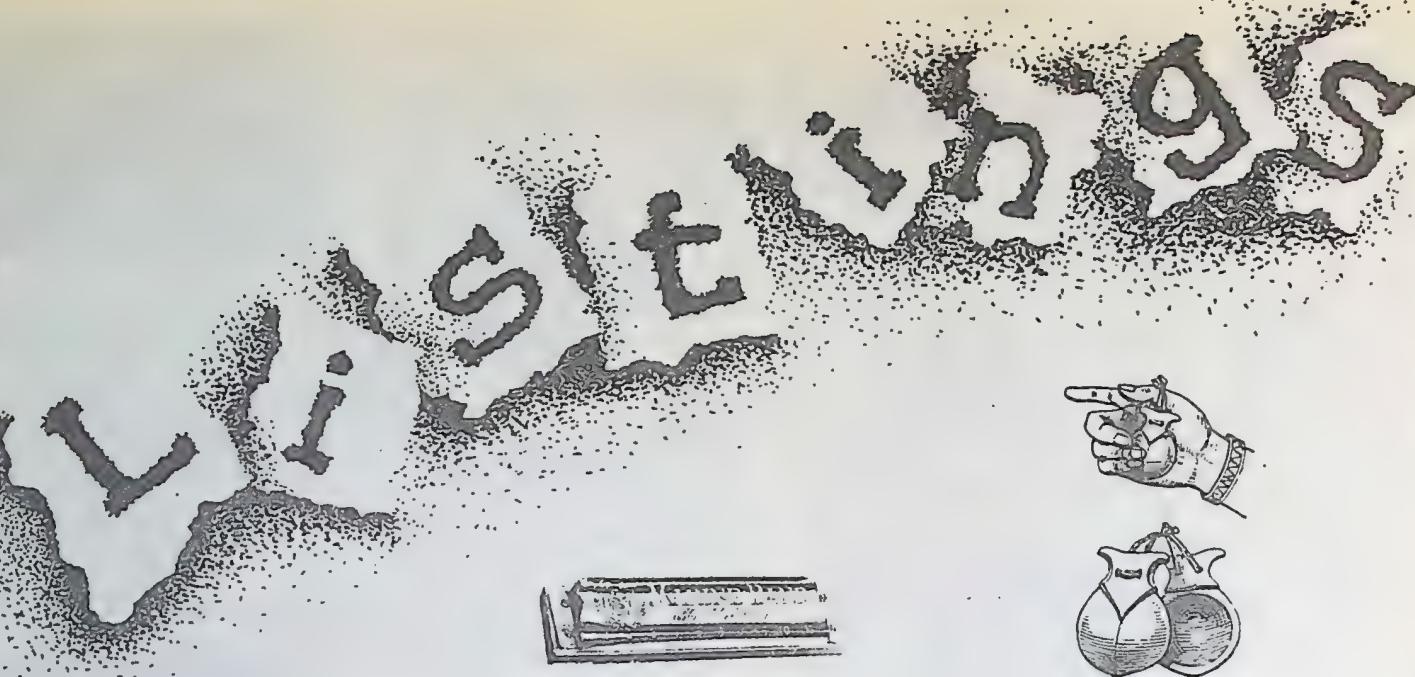
Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: The Nylons Northampton Center for the Arts: Aladdin's Lamp (Broadway Musical Express)

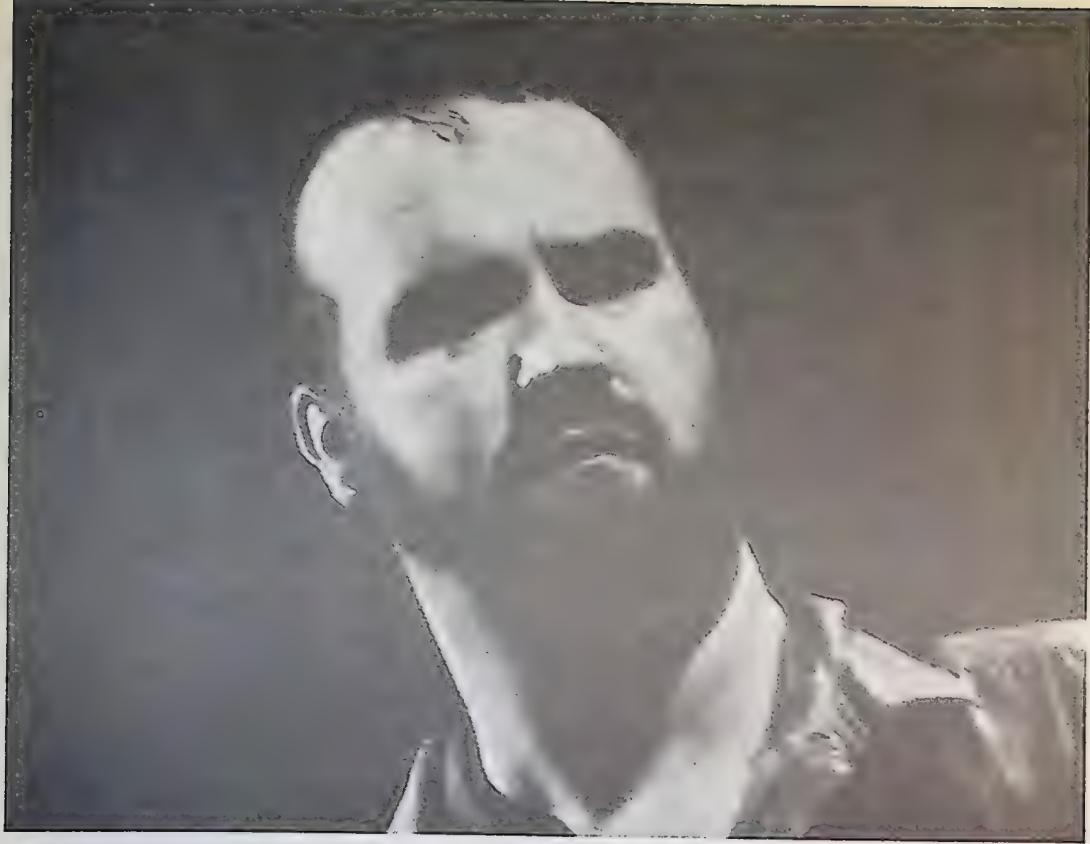
TUE
ELEVEN

Iron Horse: Sing Out For Justice Pearl Street: The Judybats Green River Cafe: Poetry Slam

WED
TWELVE

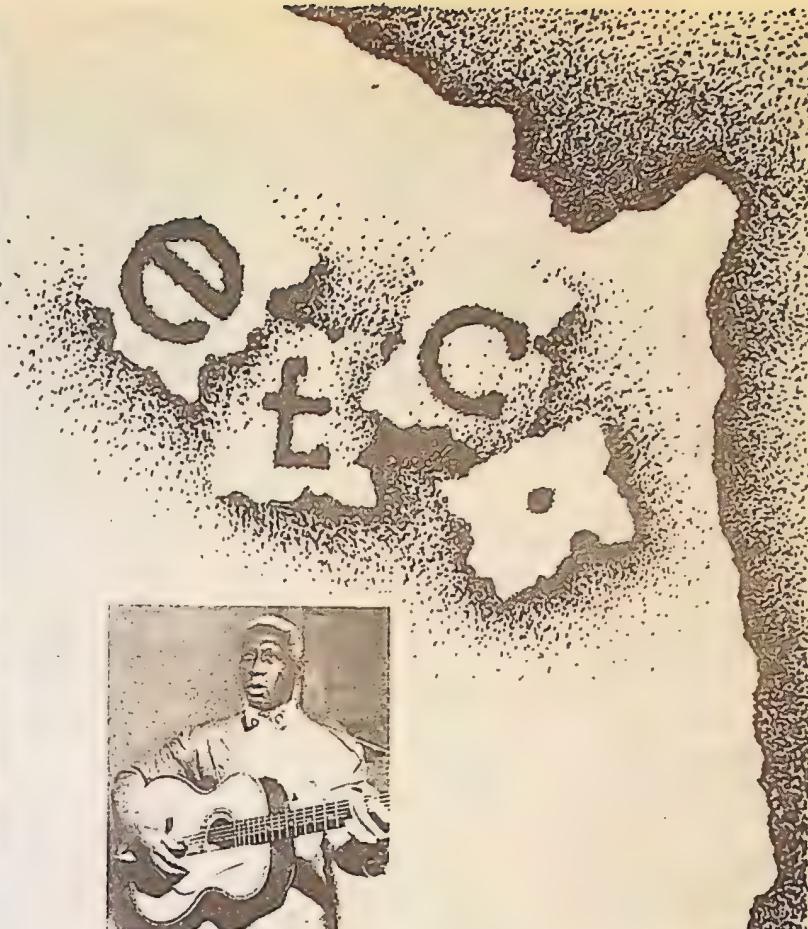
Vertex: Reggae — New Horizon Iron Horse: Ferron Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — Frances Gumm, Zeke Fiddler, Media Darlings





The great John Martyn, at The Iron Horse

Tobey photo



THU
THIRTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Ferron Alley Oops: All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music
Dave's Other Place: West End Blues Band Pearl Street: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, New Radiant Storm King,
Dieselmeat, Hoolapopper, Out Out, Wombat Charlemont Inn: open mic Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — The
Scuds, Barrence Whiffield, Steve Westfield, Tom Russell

FR
FOURTEEN

Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — Ray Mason Band, Harmony Rockets, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies Dave's Other Place:
Cafe Society Green River Cafe: Cosy Sheridan Alley Oops: Baby Jane Pearl Street: Joe Ely, Lucinda Williams
City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Vertex: Zoo Station Iron Horse: Martin Sexton Shea Theater: Moondogs,
Tumbleweed Hotel Northampton: Jac Veronesi, Charlie Schmidt Charlemont Inn: John Sheldon and Blue Streak

SAT
FIFTEEN

Alley Oops: Mischief City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music Iron Horse: Kanda Bongo Man Green River Cafe: Stockwell Brothers
Baystate Hotel: Eve Was Right, Hydrox 1-4-5, Clayton Denwood Vertex: Selectrocution Dave's Other Place: Giacomo Gates Huke
Lau/Comedy Connection: Gilbert Gottfried Shea Theater: Moondogs, Tumbleweed Charlemont Inn: Joel Zoss
Northampton Center for the Arts: Danse Afrique Shea Theater: Polkabration — Chicago Push, Polka Tradition
International

SUN
SIXTEEN

Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. Iron Horse: David Mallet Vertex: Deicide

MON
SEVENTEEN

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Velocity Girl, Jale
Northampton Center for the Arts: Children of Nature (film, at The Academy of Music)



TUE
EIGHTEEN

Gee whiz... time to catch up on that backlog of *TV Guides*. (The *Roseanne* ish is a scream.)

WED
NINETEEN

Iron Horse: Jim Henry (CD release) Bay State Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — Clubber Lang, Azalia Snail, Sturmbo

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MON 10.

THE NYLONS

TUE 11+
SING OUT FOR JUSTICE

WED 12 & THU 13+

FERRON

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MARTIN SEXTON

SAT 15+

KANDA BONGO MAN

SUN 16+

MARTIN SEXTON

MON 17.

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plus JALE

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Pollution Boycott

 Victoria, British Columbia, an international tourist destination made popular by its reputation for being "clean, green, and safe," is facing a visitor boycott because it is now the only major municipality in North America continuing to dump raw sewage into the sea. Despite requests from neighboring Seattle and other communities, voters in Victoria turned down a proposal to build a sewage treatment plant, opting to continue to deal with the city's effluent in the same way it has for the past 100 years—by flushing it untreated into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Tourists and conventions have begun canceling their visits to the historic city in protest of the November vote. Schoolchildren from Seattle's St. Anne School, who make annual trips to Victoria, chose instead to send their regrets this year in a protest letter to the city's top municipal officer.

Floods

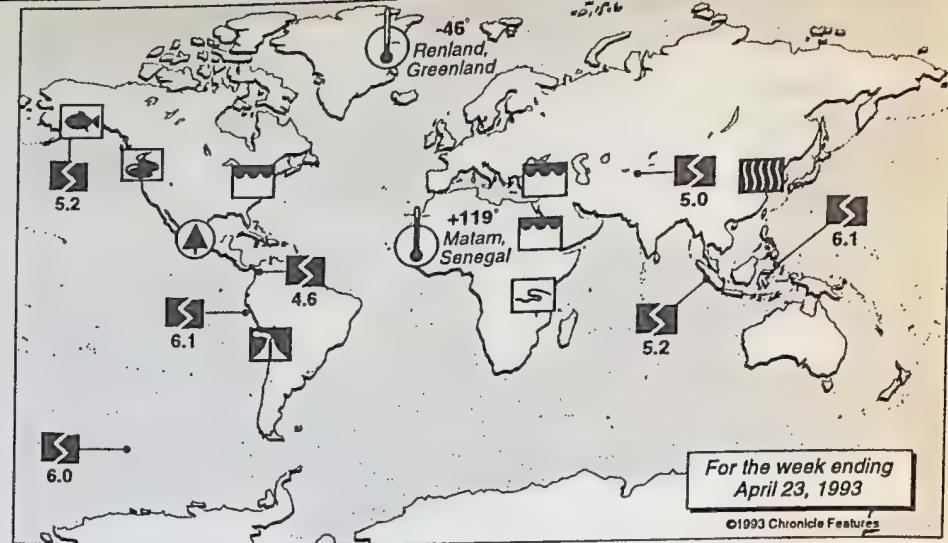
 Flood waters in eastern Sudan claimed 35 lives and washed away a large number of tents belonging to Rashaida nomadic tribesmen in the Tokar area. The Sudan News Agency reported that 75,000 people were made homeless by the inundations.

More than 3,000 houses and shops in eastern Turkey had to be evacuated as rising flood waters and landslides struck the region.

Rivers and streams overflowing their banks in central New York forced hundreds from their homes. The worst-hit areas were around Oneida Lake, north of Syracuse.

Eruption

 Chile's Lascar Volcano belched a towering cloud of gray ash above Antofagasta, 240 miles north of Santiago. The volcano began erupting on April 19 after a three-year dormancy.

For the week ending
April 23, 1993

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trophe, such as an earthquake or the death of supreme leader Deng Xiaoping.

Aging Giant

 Stress from insects, pollution, poor care, and pigeon droppings may be killing what is said to be the world's largest tree, according to Mexico's Notimex news agency. The 2,000-year-old Savin tree, which stands near Oaxaca in front of the Tule village church, is 138 feet high, 191 feet around at the base, and weighs almost 700 tons. Agronomist Jose Francisco Mayra Skidmore said a study outlining dangers to the tree, a major tourist attraction, was presented to the government almost three years ago but no action was taken. Skidmore said \$80,000 is needed to save the tree.

Additional Sources: Environment Canada, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

Herring Health

 A predicted record run of herring has so far failed to materialize in Alaska's Prince William Sound, site of the catastrophic 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. State officials say that many of the fish that have returned are diseased, but so far tests have not proven any particular cause for the year's dismal herring run, or the illness. Only about a third of the predicted 130,000 tons of fish have appeared. Of those, more than one third are afflicted by a mysterious sickness, characterized by red lesions and superficial bleeding.

Viper Deaths

 Four children who were fleeing bandits with their families were killed by snakes at a river camp in northeast Kenya. Three were poisoned by cobras, while the other was crushed by a python in Garba Tula, north of the Meru National Park.

Earthquakes

 A powerful offshore tremor rocked a large section of Peru, killing at least three people and sending thousands of Lima residents running into the streets. The fatalities were caused by landslides that also injured several others on the outskirts of the capital city. The seabed of the South Pacific was jolted by a magnitude 6.0 quake which occurred far from land and human habitation.

Earth movements were also felt in Sumatra, northeast Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, and Alaska.

Heat Wave

 The mercury climbed to 90 degrees Fahrenheit under the bright spring sunshine in Beijing, making it the hottest April day since before the Communist takeover in 1949. To China's many superstitious people, the sudden upward swing in temperature can be taken as a sign of impending catast-

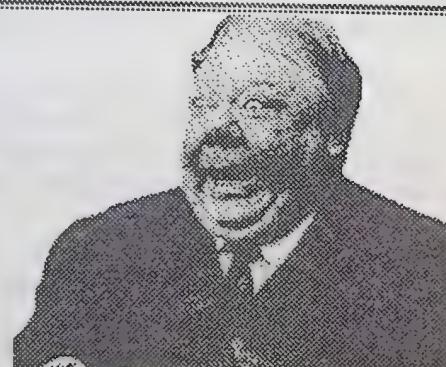
Wilmington

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ALUMNI NOTES

CLASS OF 1987

Sal Treadmill of Far Oaks, CA writes, "I have grown tired of actuarial work. Effective August 1, I will leave the insurance industry and begin a career emulating the life cycle of trout. Authenticity is my objective, but, late-summer migration to spawning pools upstream may involve several portages." • "It was great seeing everyone out here," Notes Lisa Gregg, "I wasn't expecting to see everyone out here. Hope to see you all out here!!" • Brad McVie '89 of Spokane, WA reports, "Starting now, I won't tolerate any more of this jive about the horseshoes! I can win fair and square just like anyone. The pudding hadn't even set before the dutchess arrived. I was framed!!" • The 1993 Viscount Furflux Fellowship for Studies in Untethered Free-Fall was recently awarded to Rambunctio in a private ceremony in his hometown of Tree, VT. He noted, "I should be out of traction in less than three weeks. My fiancée visits every afternoon and treats the ward to her vast repertoire of bugle reveille." • Charlene Degrantiss, Poughkeepsie, NY, informs us that, "I completed my Ph.D. in Rondostropic Rondochemistry and just accepted a job offer at RondoTek in Boston. I'm looking forward to teaching B.U.'s



Jack Turpentine '46 recently sneezed.

Intro to Rondo class and an advanced Rondo lab on the Supervery-Ultrarondo state in common budgie. I just finished a book titled *The Thirsty Crusher Faces Off: Rondo vs. Ginger Ale: No Contest.* • Patrick Cathugger of Chicago writes, "I married Pamela Vovlich '85 last month. [see STATS] She watched as I loaded up the moving van for our dream house in Skokie. But now I can't seem to find her." • "I'm watching the news right now and can't believe one of our alums is a cabinet member of the Clinton Administration!" Says Kristen Halson, Fairfax, VA. "No, wait. I'm sorry. I was thinking of someone else." • Daniel Toady, Cupertino, CA, notes, "I just got accepted into this great program in Diet Rondotherapy at U. Rondo in Santa Barbara. It's an exciting field and I'm eager to apply my mastery of Rondo to everyday situations and the

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Rat Invasion

 One of the North Pacific's most important turtle rookeries is threatened by a rat population explosion. The rodents were probably carried to the remote atoll by Asian fishing vessels, operating illegally in the area. Danny Wase, Director of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, warned that unless something is done to eradicate the pests, it could result in the "complete demise of turtles and birds on uninhabited Bikar." The introduction of cats or owls has been suggested as a way to kill off the rats, according to *The Marshall Islands Journal*.

Fireball

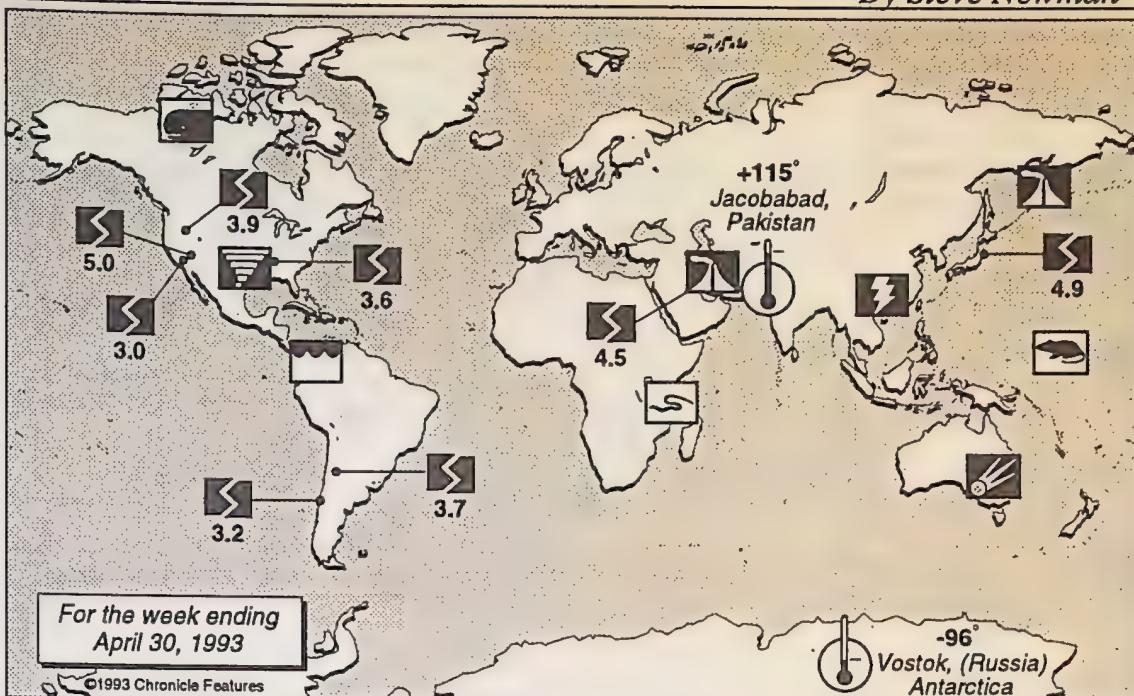
 A massive search by amateur and professional astronomers was launched in Australia after a meteor struck the ground in northwestern New South Wales. Hundreds of people across three states witnessed the fireball, which was believed to be the size of a golf ball. Based on triangulation from the locations of several observers, the search focused on an 18-square-mile area.

Earthquakes

 Arizona's most powerful earthquake since 1976 was felt over a wide area from southern Utah to Phoenix, including the Grand Canyon. Earth movements were also felt in northeast Japan, central Chile, along the Chile-Argentina border, southern Iran, western Idaho, Southern California, and the Mississippi Valley.

Floods

 Rescue crews in northwest Colombia said that at least 59 people were killed and 40 others missing after flash floods struck the area. Heavy rains caused the Taparto River to swell, sending a huge wave of mud, rock, and water through Taparto, 140 miles northwest of Bogota.



Tornado

 A massive Great Plains twister tore a half-mile-wide path of destruction from a crowded stretch of interstate highway through the Tulsa, Okla., suburb of Catoosa. Seven people were killed by the high winds or falling debris, and most of the town's business district and schools were either destroyed or heavily damaged. The National Weather Service was able to provide a few minutes' warning of the approaching tornado based on radar surveillance.

Spring Storm

 Frightening electrical storms in southwest China's Sichuan province spawned large hail that killed 12 people and destroyed thousands of homes. The storm occurred in the early morning hours of April 25 in Chongqing, a major industrial city on the banks of the Yangtze. Authorities reported that 70,000 rural

homes were damaged and 8,000 others destroyed during the four-hour tempest.

Eruptions

 A volcano in Russia's far eastern Kamchatka peninsula erupted for the first time in nearly 30 years with a plume of ash accompanied by deafening explosions, according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

Mount Taftan erupted in southeastern Iran, sending molten lava streaming 200 feet down the 13,800-foot volcano. The Iranian news agency reported that the eruption posed no immediate threat to residents in the area.

Snake Rescue

 A two-year-old child from Darling, near Mombasa, was saved from the mouth of a 10-foot-long python after being swallowed to the waist, the Kenya Times reported. The child's mother and other villagers had fled from the

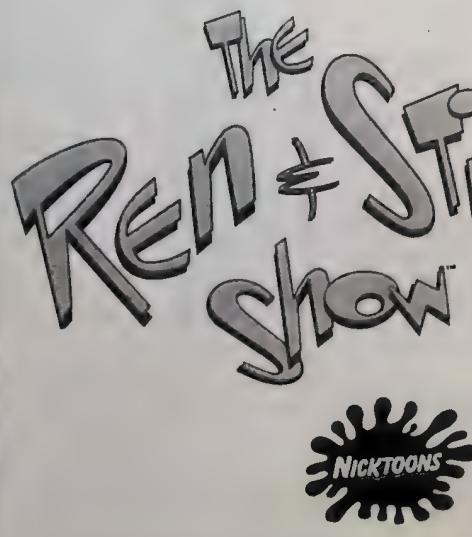
reptile, but a watchman attacked the snake with a sharp stone so that it regurgitated the victim unharmed. The reptile was then beaten to death.

Arctic Alimony

 Impoverished Arctic residents will be able to make alimony payments with whale blubber, musk ox, or even a chunk of iceberg under new legislation proposed in Canada. The Northwest Territories government said the support scheme, expected to become law this fall, will recognize that unemployment among the vast territory's Inuit population averages more than 60 percent. It will also acknowledge that wild meat and other country food are used extensively for bartering in the Arctic and would give native hunters a means of making support payments.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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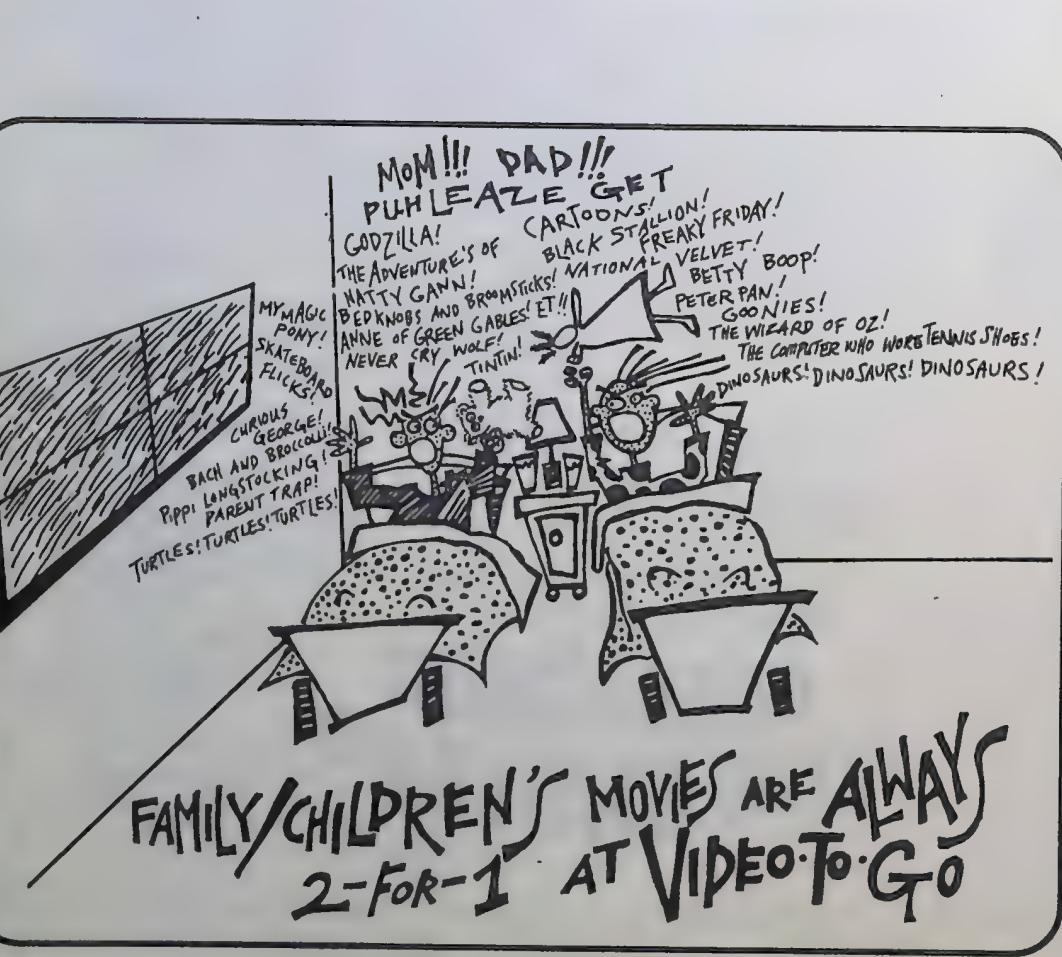
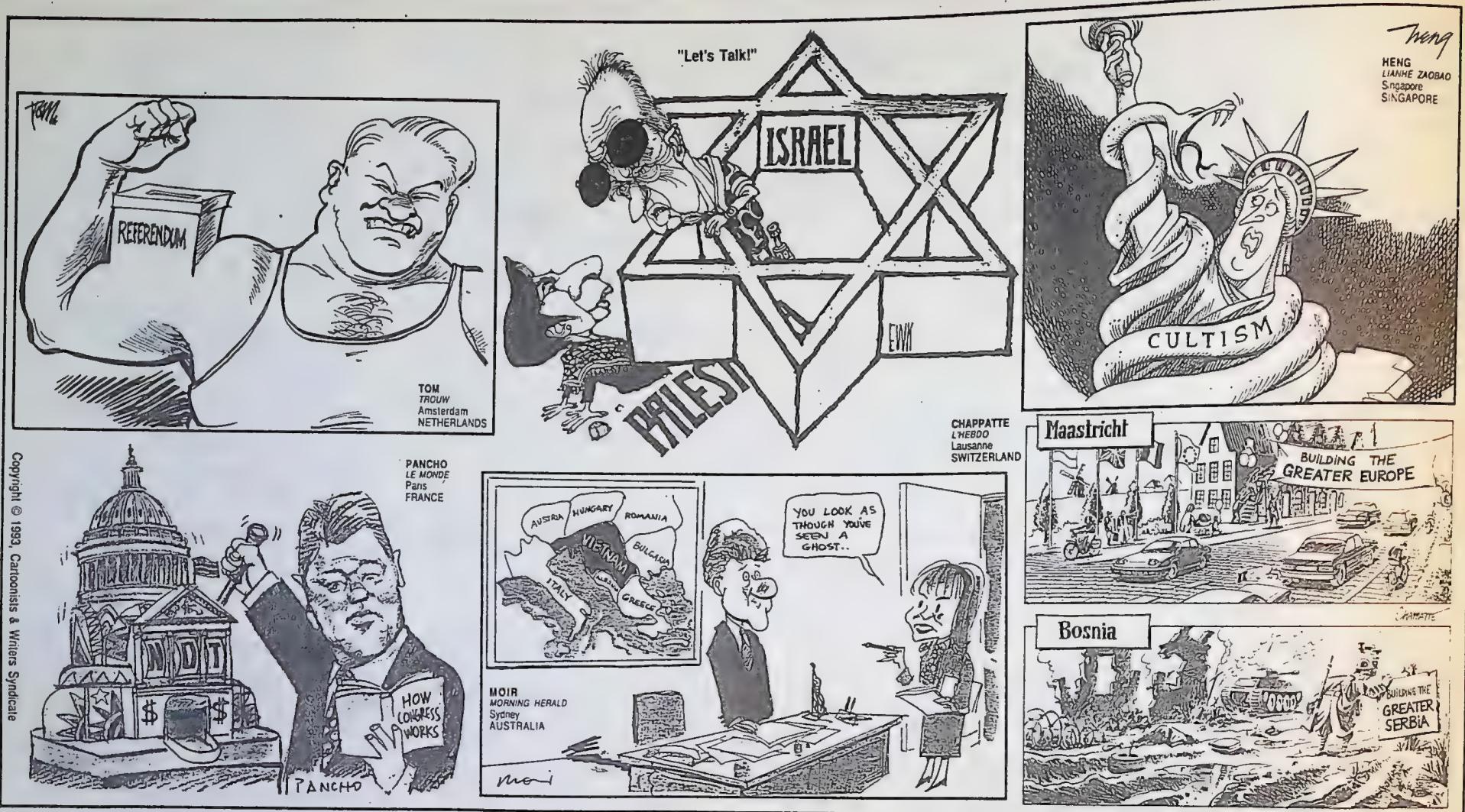
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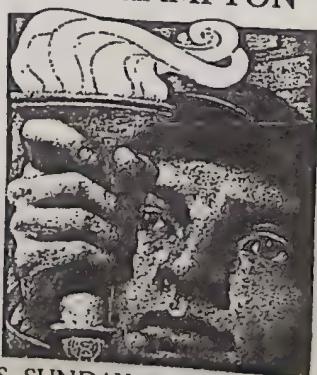
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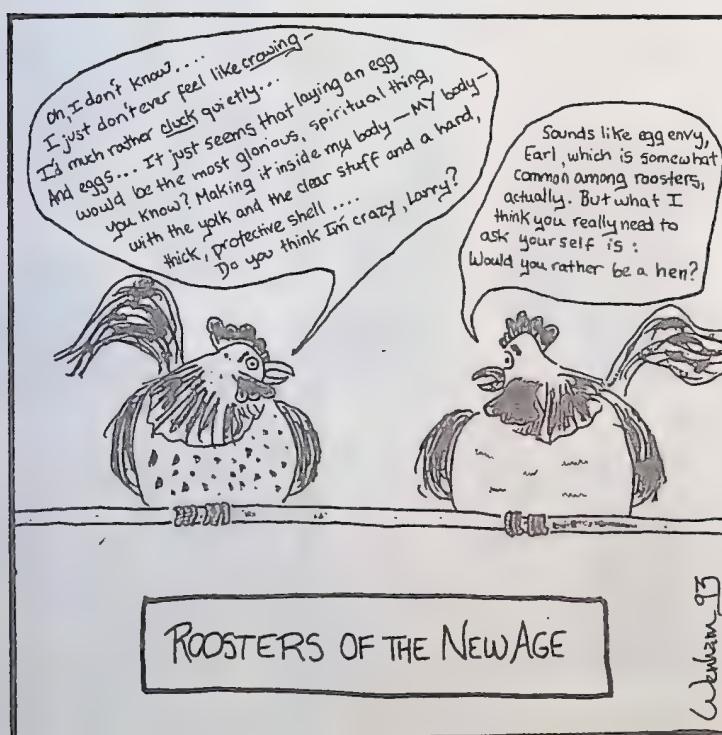
dog feathers by Giles Hopkins



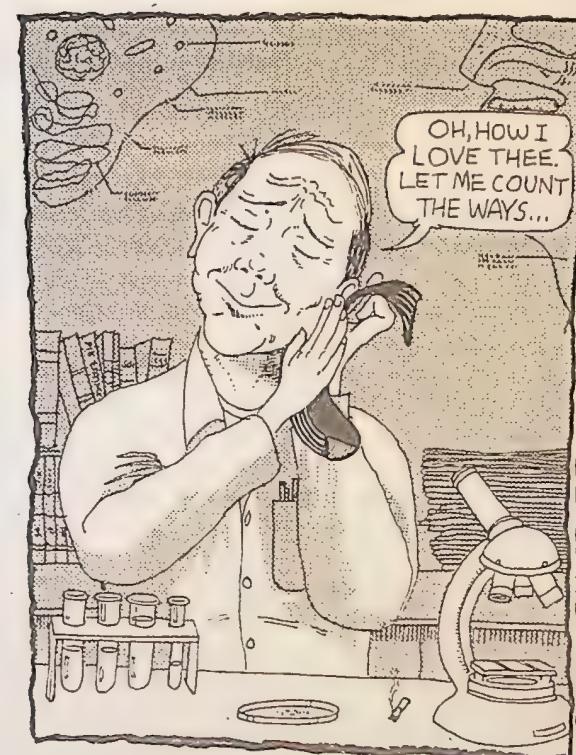
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HIS PASSION UNBRIDLED, DR NODULE'S MONUMENTAL BREAKTHROUGH LIES A SHAMBLES AS HE AND HIS LOST SOCK ONCE AGAIN BECOME ONE.

dog feathers by Giles Hopkins



"AND SHE BELIEVED YOU WHEN YOU TOLD HER YOU WERE A PRINCE?"



THE THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS REVIEW

by Becca and Siena

(Becca and Siena are two Amherst high school students whose opinions the editor sometimes values)

INTRODUCTION FACTOIDS

John Flansburgh and John Linnell are these two dudes originally from Lincoln, Mass., who like went to high school together, but didn't really hang out until moving to Brooklyn when they discovered they lived in the same apartment building. Who knew? So they started playing music together, and five albums and numerous EPs later they're blowing peoples' minds with their ultra-cool quirky tunes. They're awesome.

IMPRESSIONS OF BAND MEMBERS

The tour band right now consists of Kurt the keyboard/horn guy, Brian the new drummer, and Tony the bassist, who's the coolest — and he knows us! They made some changes in the band since we saw them at Amherst College — that new trumpet dude — Frank, we think And of course they got that new drummer, who was good. But he's just not the same as the old guy, Jonathan, who got a computer-programming job and didn't want to quit it to go on this tour. He knew us, too — he was wonderful; we missed him.

THE SHOW AT PEARL STREET

Brian Dewan was the opening guy. He's crazy. Oh, man, he was so out of control. Oh my god! He knows us, too. What was that one song like "Hair! Hair! Cut your hair! What are you, queer? Cut your hair!" That was awesome. And we can't forget his ever-popular "Fire, fire, fire, fire, wastepaper basket fire." Oh, and that one about the shellacked dead man who was used as a dummy and no one knew he was at one time alive until they were filming "The Six-Million Dollar Man" in 1976 and he fell down and his arm fell off. It was really weird. He plays this electric zither. He's so cool, though, because he's got this weirdo kind of stage personality that doesn't really go with his music. It's kind of like he could be a serial killer or something, and no one would know.

Anyway, then TMBG came on, and they did all this new stuff. We thought it was so cool that they had a song called "Thermostat." We can't actually say we remember what the new ones were called, but we really liked how they were put together. The lyrics were great, and there was something quite catchy but not like "chewy" about the tunes that went with them.

Most of their set was put together well. We thought it was weird that they did "Someone Keeps Moving My Chair." It doesn't seem like a concert song. And "Mammal" was unusually slow. At the show in Maine, John Linnell said, "This is a song I do...with Mr. Flansburgh." That was amusing.

"Chewy," by the way, describes a kind of cheesy, lame, repetitive, mainstream feeling that a lot of music has. At the Worcester show, they also played "Mammal" unusually slow, and it bummed us because "Mammal" is kind of a dance tune as opposed to one where you would wave a cigarette lighter during.

They played a fair amount of stuff from "Flood" in place of stuff from their debut album (They Might Be Giants) that they've played in past shows. We're not big fans of "Flood," but hearing it live is an exception.

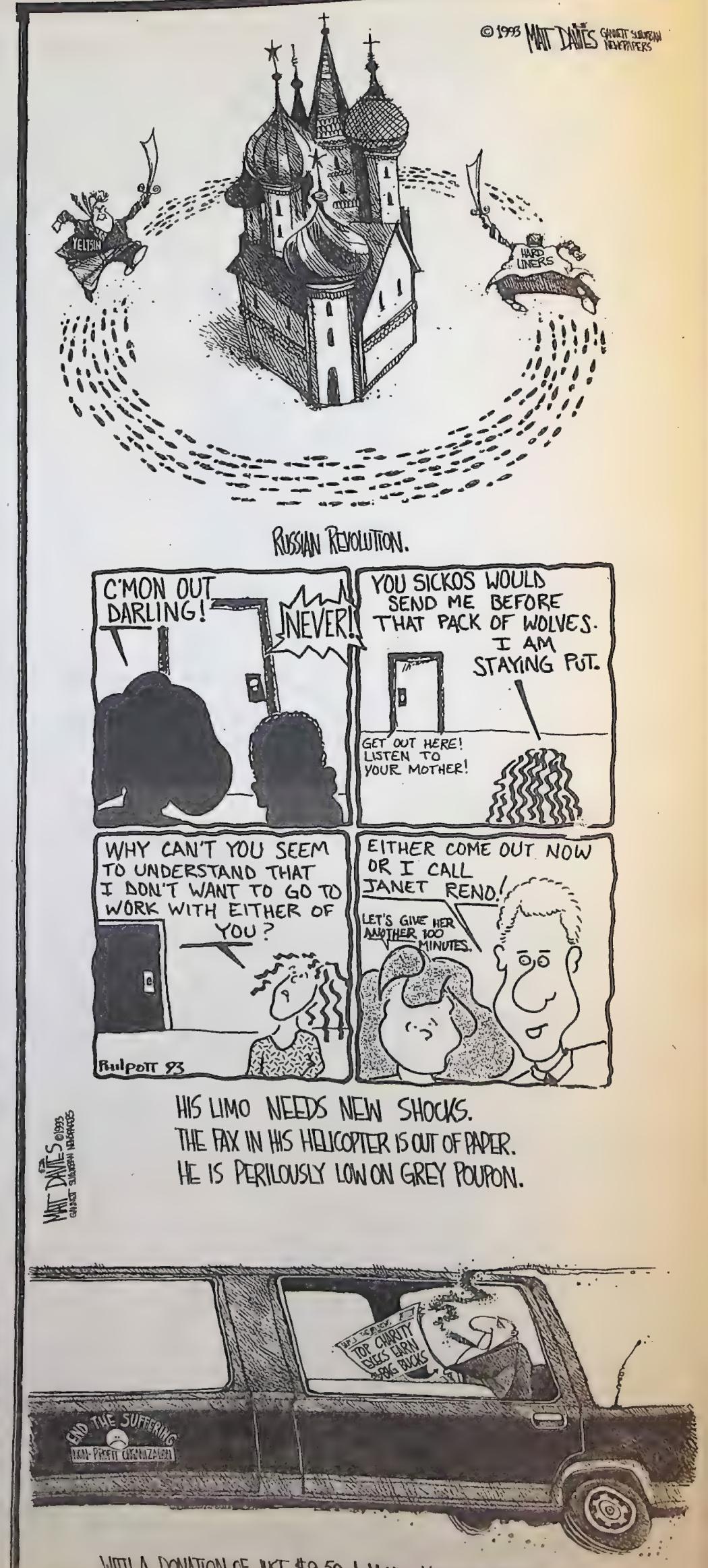
Throughout the show, John Linnell was making all these bizarro Michael Stipe-like hand/dance movements. It was so cool. It was like totally hello! And all of Flansburgh's little speeches — like when people kept requesting "Cowtown," and he went on about the integrity of the band not doing requests. And Flansburgh was sick, so they couldn't do "Istanbul." But he was doing Nyquil, which we gleaned from hearing him ask, "Hey guys, there's Nyquil on the dashboard of the blue van, right?" Kinda like "What is the frequency, Kenneth?"

We really liked drinking Perrier with the band after the show, even though Linnell was being his usual anti-social self, and Frank the trumpet dude kept playing his trumpet even though the rest of the band kept saying, "Frank, stop playing, man."

To sum up, it was awesome. We agree that They Might Be Giants puts on a cool show that might be worth the money.

MISC. & MATCH

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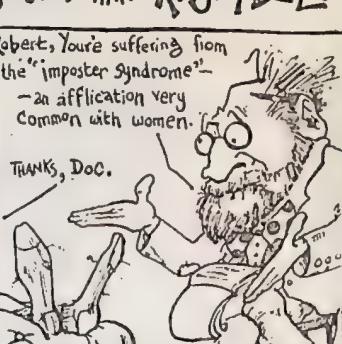


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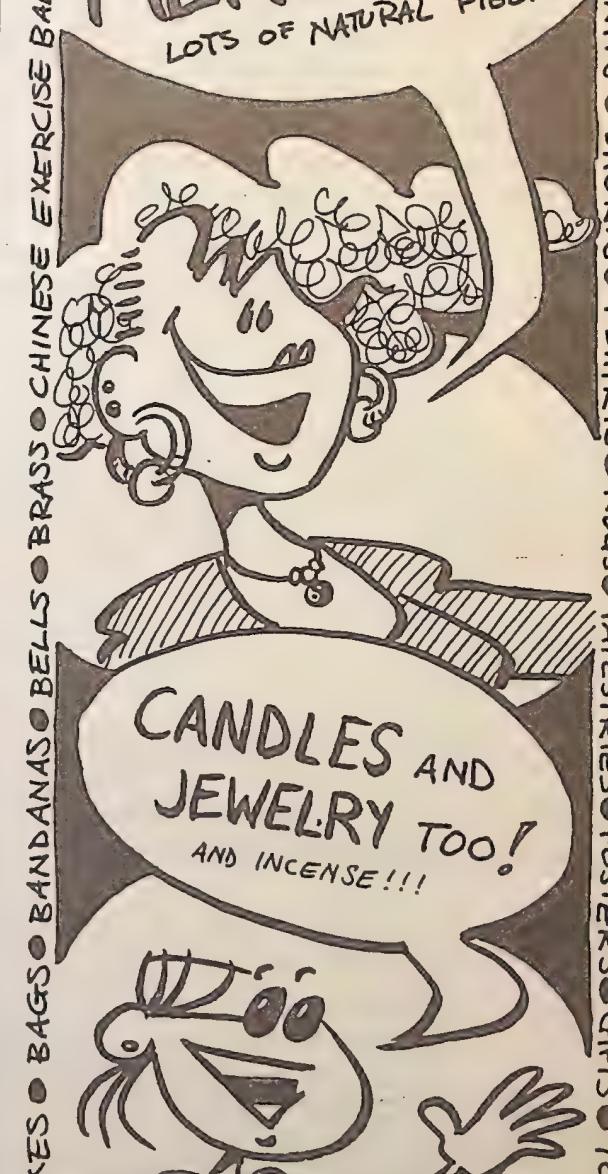
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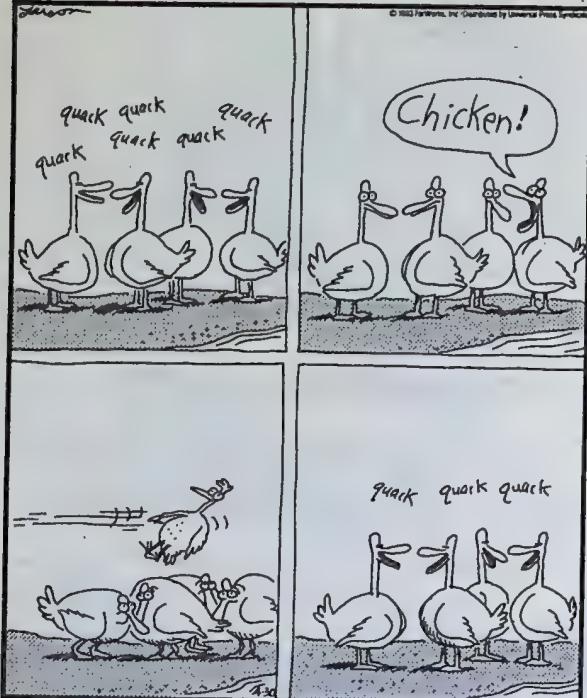
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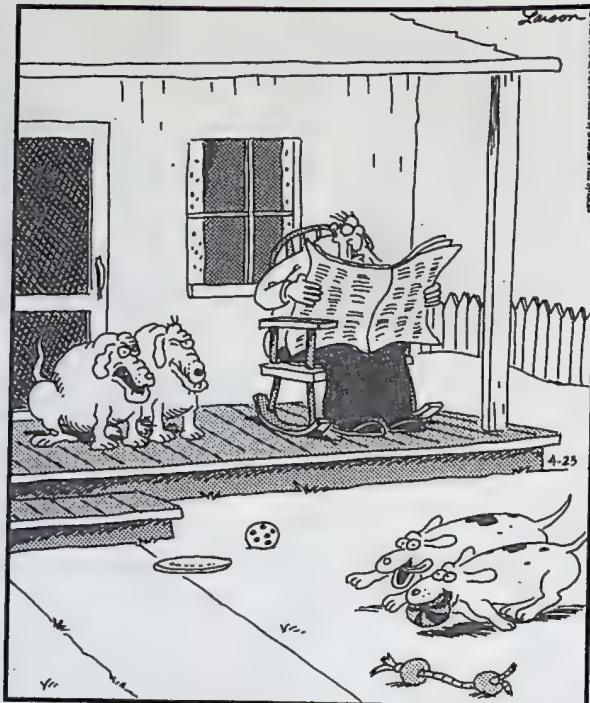
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"And so," the interviewer asked, "Do you ever have trouble coming up with ideas?" "Well, sometimes," the cartoonist replied.



"Man, these pups today with all their fancy balls and whatnot. ... Why, back in our day, we had to play with a plain old cat's head."



"OK, time for lunch. ... And Dwayne here will be dismissing you by row number, since he's alpha wolf today."

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The Leverett Co-op's 3rd Annual

Spring Fling!!

is coming

SAT. MAY 22nd AND SUN. MAY 23rd

Get that Co-op spirit
(And maybe a tan)

Stay Late
(7 PM AT LEAST)

Incredible Entertainments!!

SAT: The Urban Family Band
SUN: John Sheldon & Blue Streak

Both Days: An open mic (Bring your instruments, voices, skits, etc.)

Waffleman the Clown

Tae Kwon Do demonstrations by Amherst Family Martial Arts

Any Day: Organic foods, fresh baked goods, herbs & spices, case discounts & much, much more

367-9794
for more information

Craftspeople are welcome
•no food vendors please•
(bring your own table)
expect a small consignment fee



**LEVERETT
VILLAGE
CO-OP**

180 RATTLESNAKE GUTTER RD. LEVERETT MA. 01054

Fabulous Foods!!

our meat and vegetarian barbecue will feature B.F.'s fine savory sauces (aged to perfection), B.F.'s rightfully famous Fish Soup

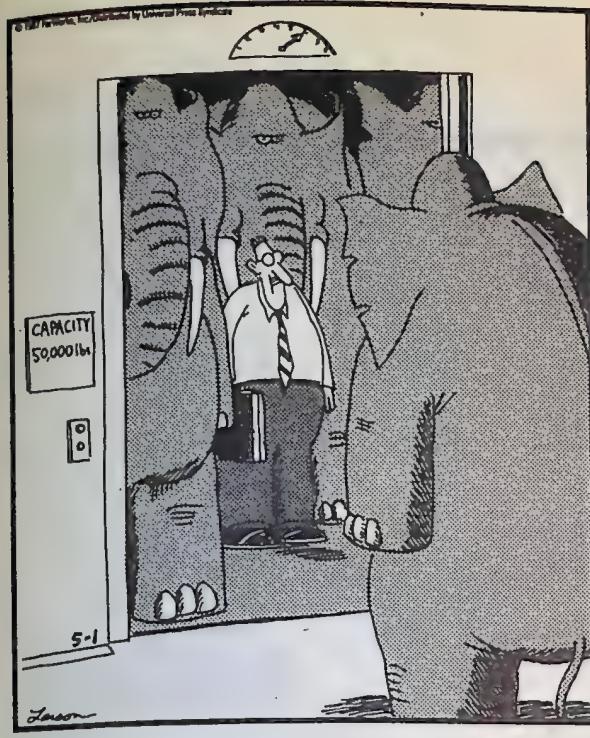
AND

Pizza from our own ovens!! (Beer and wine available with meals)

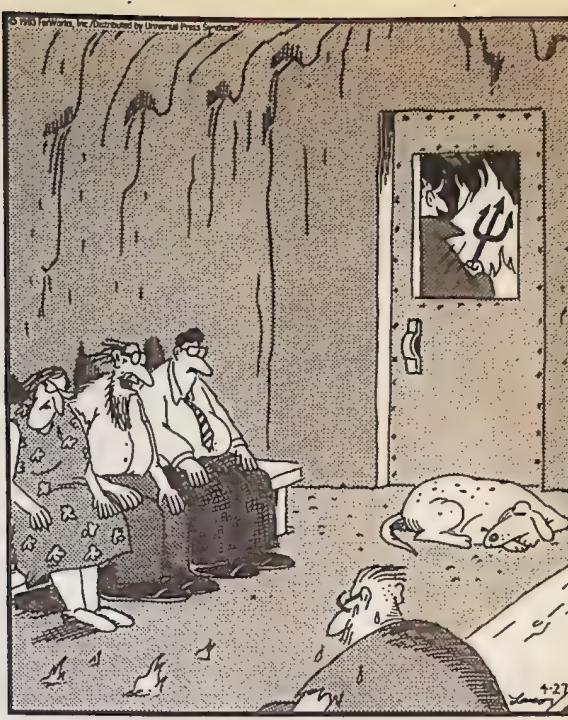
PICNICS AND MOVEABLE FEASTS ARE ENCOURAGED

Your best alternative to an ordinary spring weekend is in the scenic Leverett Hills

(3 miles toward Lake Wyola from the Junctions of Rts. 47&63)



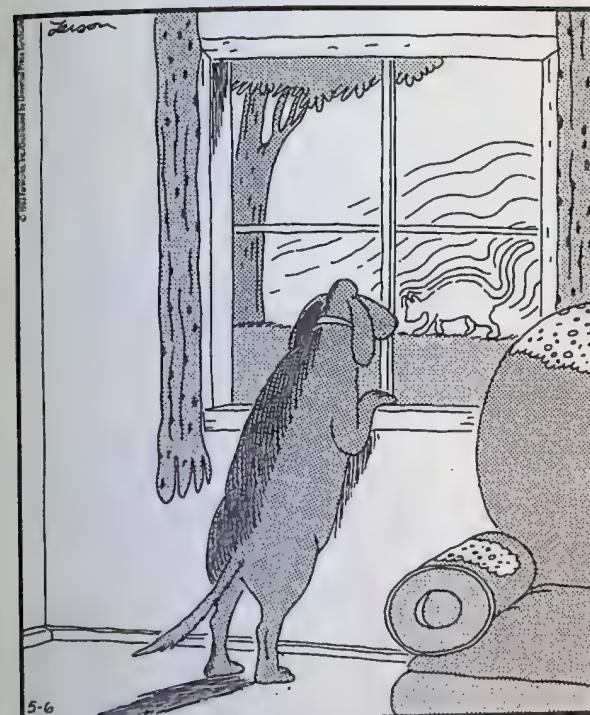
To Ernie's horror, and the ultimate disaster of all, one more elephant tried to squeeze on.



"His story? Well, I dunno. ... I always assumed he was just a bad dog."



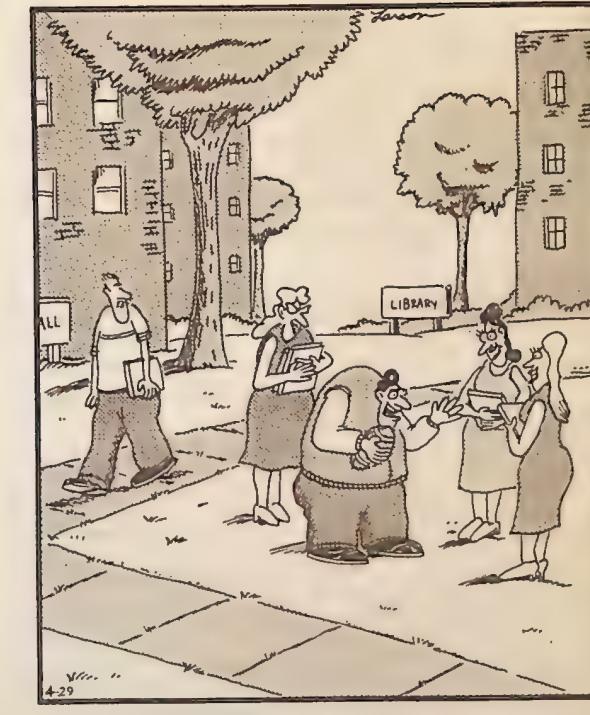
What the stranger didn't know, of course, was that Sam always kept a dobie in his boot.



Bored dogs are often subject to the phenomenon of cat mirages.



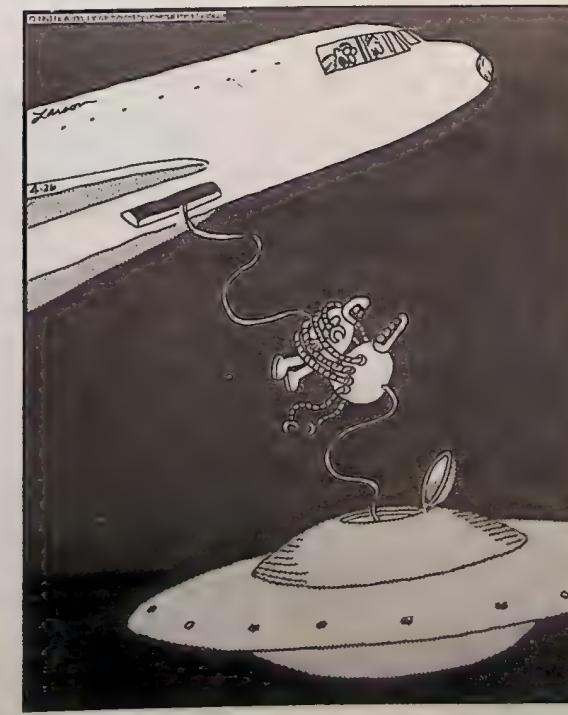
"Whoa! Look at Zagar! ... He dressed to the twos!"



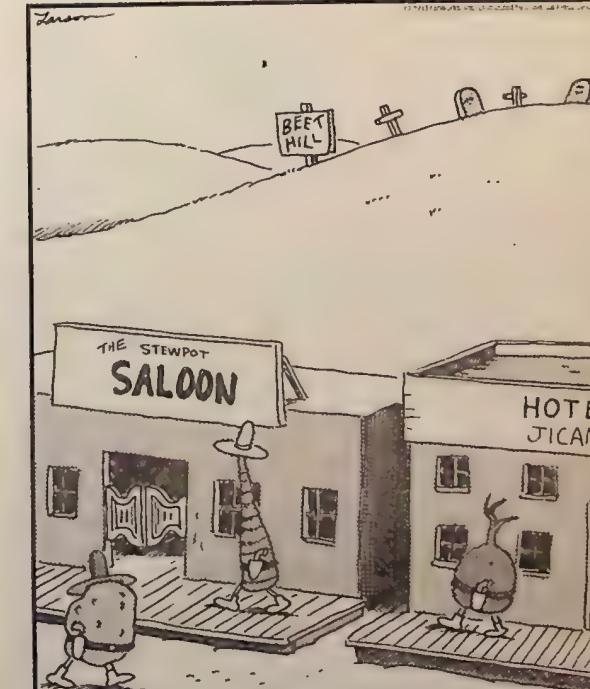
Back in his college days, Igor was considered to be the HBOC.



"That's a lie, Morty! ... Mom says you might have got the brains in the family, but / got the looks!"



"We've done it! They've linked up! ... Man, Feldman must be freaking out — he even hates spiders."



It was no place for yellow squash.

Leold at 15

by Roger&Salem Salloom

My dad woke me up this morning at 3 a.m. in the middle of the night phone calling from the other side of the country. I could barely find the phone in the dark..

He started telling me how we should always be close. He asked if I'd like to go out to dinner with him when he returns home.

I told him I wasn't hungry, but I really liked it when he cried.

I told him I didn't like the way he dressed and, I thought he was fat.

I asked him if he could give me some money.

He's sending money.

I think I'm growing up, but I don't know about him.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

CURIOSITY IS THE ESSENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC MIND.

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU KNOW HOW MILK COMES OUT YOUR NOSE IF YOU LAUGH WHILE DRINKING?

WELL, I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I INHALE MILK INTO MY NOSE AND LAUGH!

IDIOCY IS THE ESSENCE OF THE MALE MIND. I'M GUESSING IT WILL SHOOT OUT MY EARS. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE??

WANT TO HELP ME MAKE A POSTER?

SURE. WHAT'S IT FOR?

IT'S A SCHOOL CONTEST. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTERS. THE WINNER GETS FIVE BUCKS!

WOW! THINK OF IT! WE'LL BE RICH! AND THEN THERE'S THE FAME AND GLORY! I TELL YOU, THIS COULD BE OUR TICKET OUT OF THIS TWO-BIT DUMP!

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT'S OUR WINNING POSTER GOING TO SAY?

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

OUR TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER NEEDS A CATCHY SLOGAN THAT PROMOTES AWARENESS AND CAUTION. ANY IDEAS?

HOW ABOUT, "DON'T LOOK INTO CAR HEADLIGHTS AND FREEZE, BECAUSE YOU'LL EITHER GET RUN OVER OR SHOT!"

I'LL CHECK THE STATISTICS, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT HAPPENS TO MANY PEOPLE.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS WORLD THAN JUST PEOPLE, YOU KNOW.

HEY DAD, I'M DOING A TRAFFIC SAFETY POSTER. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR A SLOGAN?

SURE! "CYCLISTS HAVE A RIGHT TO THE ROAD TOO, YOU NOISY, POLLUTING, INCONSIDERATE MANIACS! I HOPE GAS GOES UP TO EIGHT BUCKS A GALLON!"

THANKS, DAD. I'LL GO ASK MOM.

WHY? THAT'S A GREAT SLOGAN!

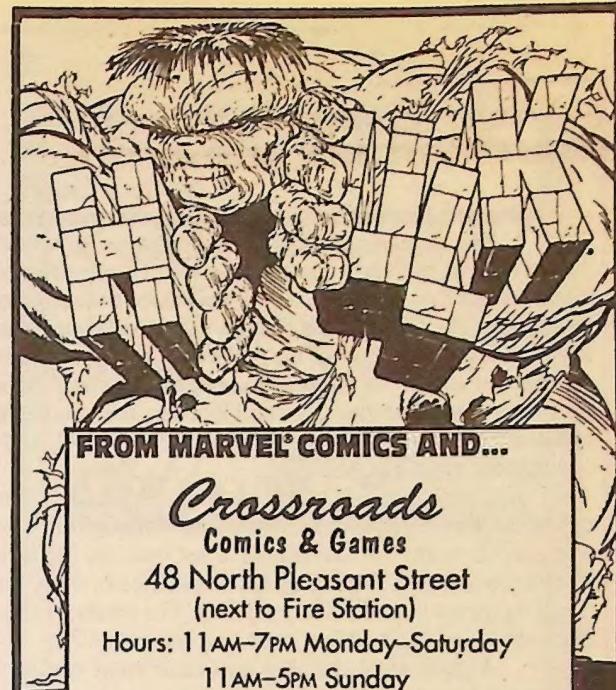
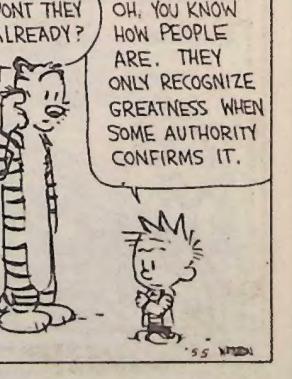
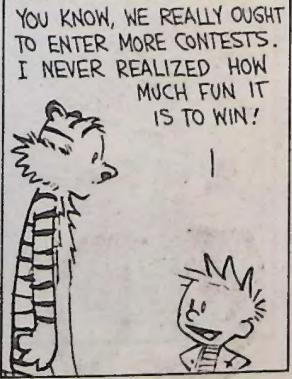
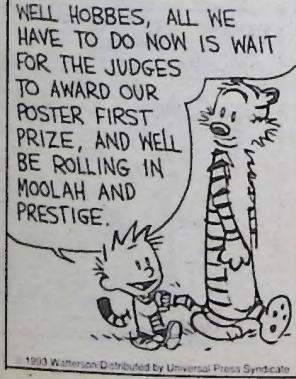
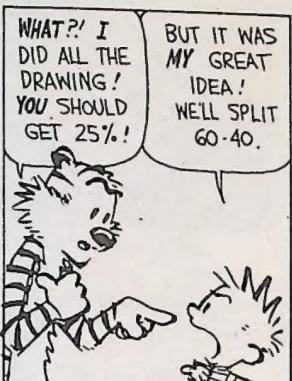
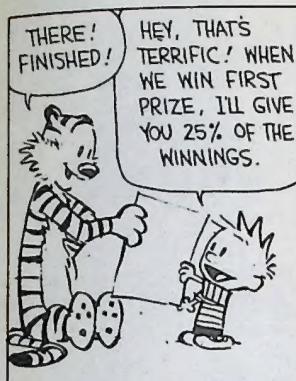
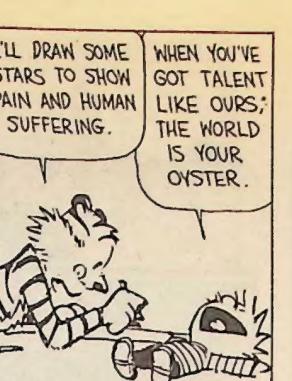
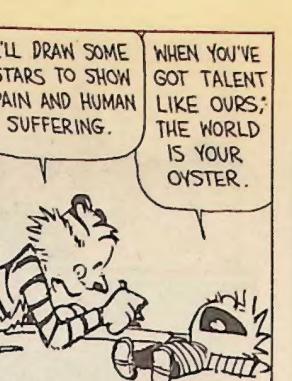
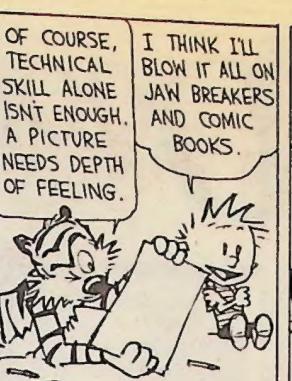
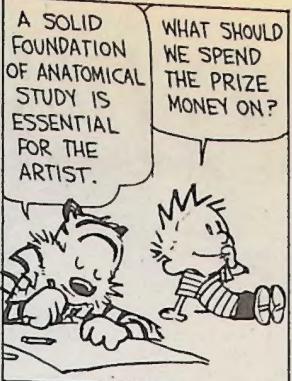
MOM SUGGESTED THE SLOGAN, "BEFORE YOU CROSS, LOOK EACH WAY... AND YOU'LL GET HOME SAFE EACH DAY."

THAT'S KIND OF CATCHY. YEAH, BUT I LIKE MY IDEA BETTER.

BE CAREFUL, OR BE ROADKILL!

I SUPPOSE THAT LENDS ITSELF MORE TO YOUR PARTICULAR BRAND OF ILLUSTRATION.

I HOPE I HAVE ENOUGH CADMIUM RED.



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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

The first annual "Take Our Daughters To Work" day is herstory. Exit polls show the occasion was a success for the young 'uns because they got to see their folks valued and respected in the workplace. Their parents' colleagues were, for the most part, polite and reassuring. The goal of the day was to help pre-women foster self-esteem and be encouraged to believe they could be anything they want to be when they grow up. Of course, this was the objective of the people who thought up the idea of "TODTW", and it reeks of adultism.

One young lady of 13, who is confident about her future, described her frustration about the event. "I always knew my mom was good at work," she explained. "I just wish she had a clue as to what to do at home. If it comes out of a briefcase, she's fine. If it's out of a grocery bag, she's incompetent. You adults should spend a day with your kids, building your own self-esteem."

A good number of the girls came away confused. They were expecting to see "butt heads" and lunatics in an environment of chaotic, stimulus overload. After all, that's what the old folks gripe about when they get home. Yet, from first-hand observation, there really didn't seem to be all that much to do; certainly not enough to sanction the snippiness and complaining that parents engage in most evenings.

One puzzled pubescent pondered why Mommy has to bring a bag full of paper-work home. "She always says she can't play with me because of all the work she has, but I never see her take any papers out of the bag. She doesn't even touch it until next morning when she takes it back to the office."

A seven-year-old was surprised that the people her father worked with were not grouped according to ability. She had once asked her mother why Dad brought so much work home at night. "Because," she was told, "he doesn't have time to finish it during the day." In her world, if your work wasn't finished on time, you went into a slower group.

Experiences differed by profession. Daughters of state workers went to work and did nothing. Daughters of state troopers went to work and watched daughters of construction workers on the Mass Pike do nothing.

During a holdup, a security guard riding on patrol with his daughter grabbed her water pistol instead of his .38. He was overpowered by a robber and held hostage. The guard's daughter grabbed the robber's daughter and negotiated an exchange. The four ended up sharing ice cream sodas at Ben & Jerry's.

Not all daughters had the opportunity to go to work with their parents. Because some parents had to be away from the workplace, a number of girls were left the key to their parents' office and told to let themselves in. Once inside, these latch office-key kids found notes telling them how to make hot chocolate at the water cooler, which candy bars to buy from the vending machine, not to play with the fax, and that Daddy loves them.

Unemployed parents tried to get into the spirit and took their daughters to the places where they used to be employed. In many cities, clusters of adults hovered near the entrances to large office buildings, pointing fingers vaguely skyward in valiant attempts to identify the floor where they once worked, all the while describing to their female children the nature of the jobs they used to have.

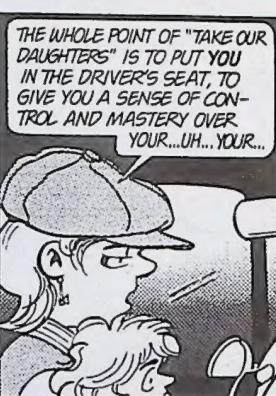
In NYC, a divorced mother and father went to court to decide whom their daughter would go to work with. A joint visitation was arranged and the girl got to spend 8-10 AM with her mom, 10-noon with her dad, noon -2 PM with her step-mother, 2-4 PM with her step-father, and 4-5 PM with her shrink. She traveled between job sites on the subway, wearing a button that identified her as an unaccompanied minor. This allowed her to get onto the subway car before other passengers, visit with the motorman, and hold the door between the cars open so a homeless, blind poet could solicit funds from homeward-bound passengers who couldn't see themselves in his dignity.

The big losers on the day were the daughters of teachers. All the others got to miss a day of school. They not only had to go to class, but ended up being the only girl in a room full of boys whose self-esteem is getting lower and lower as they realize they are the first generation of males in over 5000 years who are not going to run the world as they see fit. Anyone know of a pre-men's group?

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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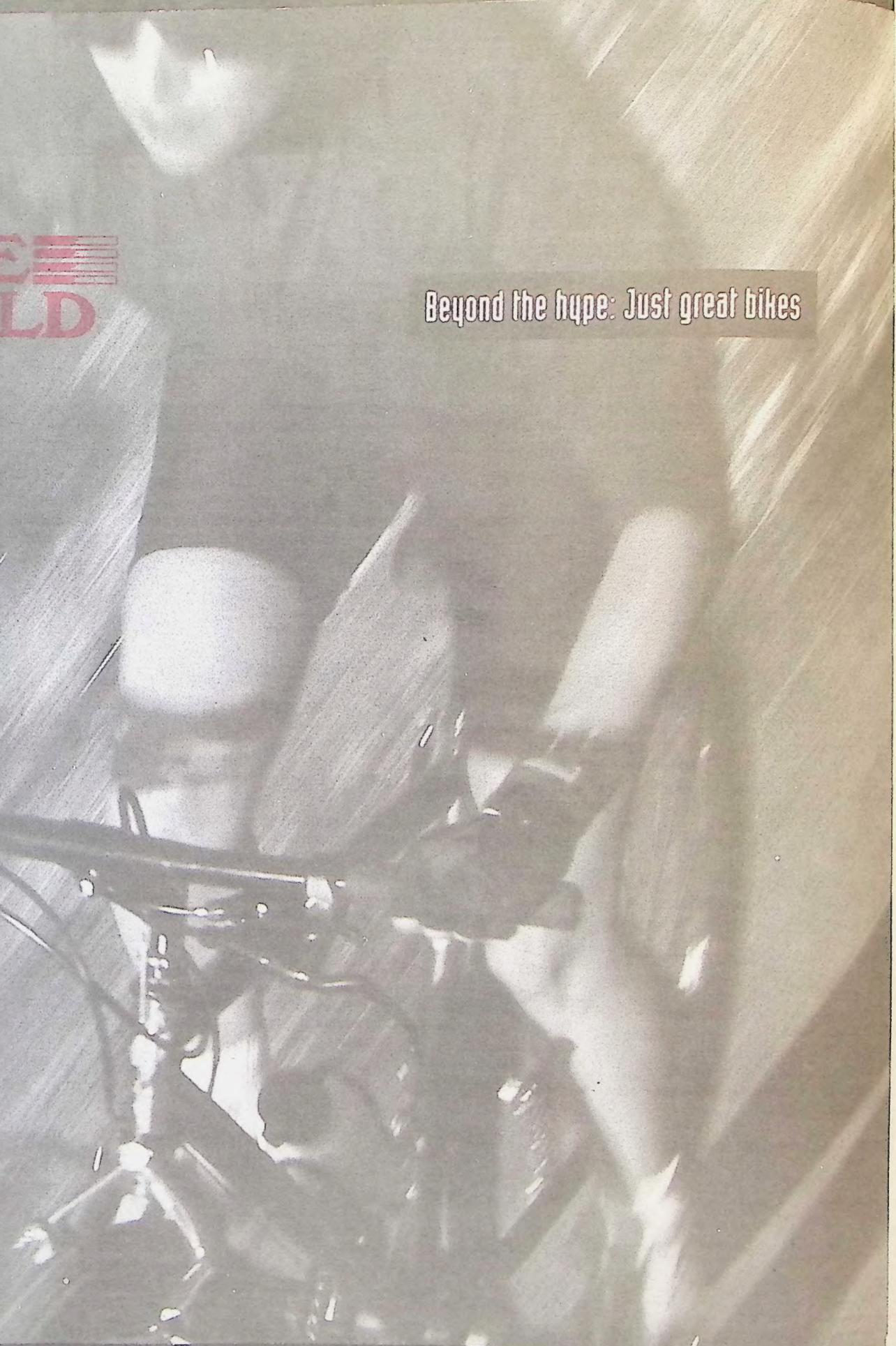
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- 1 Ride on open trails only.** Respect trails and road closures, private property, and requirements for permits and authorization. Federal and state wilderness areas are closed to cycling, and some park and forest trails are also off limits.
 - 2 Leave no trace.** Don't ride when ground will be marred, such as on certain soils after a rain. Never ride off the trail, skid your tires, or discard any object. Strive to pack out more than you pack in.
 - 3 Control your bicycle.** Inattention for even a second can cause disaster. Excessive speed frightens and injures people, gives mountain biking a bad name, and, ultimately, results in trail closures.
 - 4 Always yield.** Make your approach known well in advance. A friendly greeting is considerate and appreciated. Show your respect when passing others by slowing to walking speed or even stopping, especially in the presence of horses. Anticipate that other trail users may be around corners or in blind spots.
 - 5 Never spook animals.** Give them extra room and time to adjust to you. Running livestock and disturbing wild animals is a serious offense. Leave ranch and farm gates as you find them, or as marked.
 - 6 Plan ahead.** Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding—and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your bike in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather. Keep trails open by setting an example of responsible cycling for all to see.



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